

## Manhattan tolls, plastic bag ban approved in New York budget

By CHRIS CAROLA and DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York's Democrat-controlled Legislature on Sunday passed a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags and planned to approve tolls for driving into the busiest sections of Manhattan starting in 2021 as part of a \$175.5 billion state budget agreement

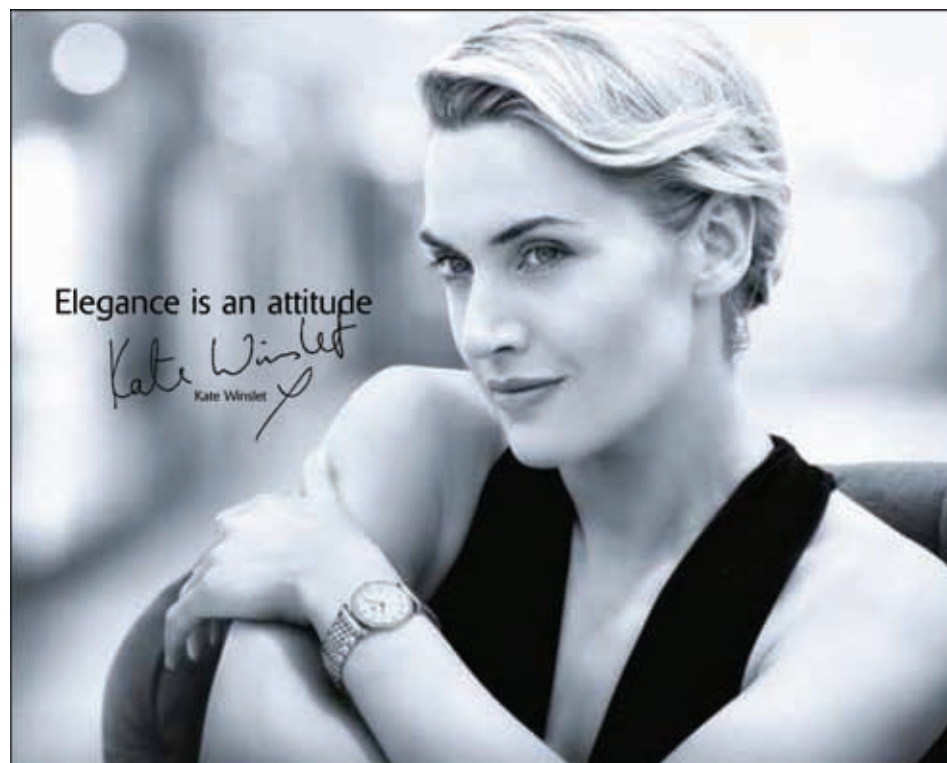
worked out with Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The Assembly and Senate passed the plastic bag ban legislation Sunday afternoon to start what was expected to be an all-day session that could spill into early Monday, when the spending plan for the 2019-2020 state fiscal year is due to be in place.

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Members of the New York state Senate debate budget bills during session in Senate Chamber at the state Capitol Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press.



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## Biden faces new scrutiny from Dems over behavior with women

By **JULIE PACE** and  
**THOMAS BEAUMONT**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former Vice President Joe Biden on Sunday defended his interactions with women, saying he doesn't believe he's ever acted inappropriately. But a Nevada politician's assertion that Biden's kiss on the back of her head made her feel uncomfortable prompted some Democrats to question whether the 76-year-old is too out of step with his own party to run a successful 2020 presidential campaign.

The episode, recounted by Democrat Lucy Flores, highlighted an aspect of Biden's persona that has been publicly known for years: the affectionate whispers, hugs and shoulder squeezes he has long doled out to women, often on camera and at high-profile public events. In a moment of national reckoning over sexual harassment and the treatment of women by powerful men, some Democrats said Biden's actions have taken on a new light.

"It looks different in 2019," said Maria Cardona, a Democratic strategist. Cardona said that while Biden's behavior is not automatically disqualifying for the presidency, "it all depends on how he continues to respond to this. He has to acknowledge that his behavior made some women uncomfortable." In a statement on Sunday, Biden said it was never his intention to make women feel discomfort.



In this March 12, 2019, file photo, former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to the International Association of Firefighters at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington.

"In my many years on the campaign trail and in public life, I have offered countless handshakes, hugs, expressions of affection, support and comfort," he said. "And not once — never — did I believe I acted inappropriately. If it is suggested I did so, I will listen respectfully."

Flores' account of the 2014 incident comes at a crucial moment for Biden. He's been wrestling for months with a final decision on whether to run for president, blowing through several self-imposed deadlines. Meanwhile, the Democratic primary has sped on without him, with more than a dozen candidates in the race, including a record number of women and minorities. Veterans like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders have shown surprising strength, while newer White

House hopefuls like California Sen. Kamala Harris and Texan Beto O'Rourke have drawn big crowds and displayed early fundraising prowess.

Biden still leads most early polls, buoyed by broad name recognition and the goodwill he generated during eight years as President Barack Obama's No. 2. Given his experience and appeal with white working-class voters in Midwestern battleground states, he's also seen by some Democrats as the best-positioned candidate to defeat President Donald Trump.

Nancy Bobo, an Iowa activist who was among Obama's earliest supporters in the state, shares that view. She fears the episode with Flores suggests Democrats may try to tear down their most-qualified candidate. "I can just see what's

coming at him," Bobo said. "And it's going to come at him from the Democrats." None of Biden's potential rivals defended him following Flores' allegations. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren said she believed Flores and that Biden "needs to give an answer" about what occurred. New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said, "Lucy Flores felt demeaned, and that is never okay. If Vice President Biden becomes a candidate, this is a topic he'll have to engage on further." Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said, "I believe it's important to listen and take seriously any incident like this."

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said Flores was "quite bold" to "go up against the highest levels of her political party" with the allegations and suggested that Biden should

consider apologizing to Flores. Conway deflected questions about the numerous women who have accused Trump of sexual misconduct, allegations he denies.

Flores told The Associated Press on Sunday that she had been mulling coming forward for years. The tipping point for her, she said, was Biden's meeting in March with 2018 Georgia Democratic gubernatorial nominee Stacey Abrams. "I saw that she was meeting with him and I thought to myself that if I don't say something now, I'm going to regret this," Flores said.

Flores said she approached only New York Magazine to publish her account of her encounter with Biden and that the magazine had fact-checked the piece after she submitted it. She said that she had provided New York with the names of several people she confided with about the incident soon after it occurred. She said she also "shared a conversation with a former staffer" about the episode. Flores declined to name any of those people to AP, saying that "no one is willing to speak publicly."

The AP tried to contact several advisers and aides from Flores' 2014 campaign, but was unable to obtain any independent verification of her account.

Flores said Biden's team has not been in touch with her since her story was published. She said she would be satisfied if Biden simply acknowledged the discomfort the episode caused her. □



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## Manhattan tolls, plastic bag ban approved in New York budget

Continued from Front

Other agreements in the budget include the closure of up to three yet-to-be-determined state prisons, eliminating cash bail for misdemeanor and non-violent felony arrests, a permanent, annual 2 percent cap on local property taxes, and another \$1 billion for public education.

"This budget is probably the strongest progressive statement that we've made," Cuomo told reporters Sunday as lawmakers worked through hours of debate and voting on the budget. "If you have big problems, it calls for big solutions."

In an agreement reached earlier last week but not officially announced until Sunday, most single-use plastic bags provided by supermarkets and other stores will be banned statewide starting March 1, 2020. Individual counties will have the option of

charging 5 cents for paper bags, with 2 cents going to local governments and 3 cents to the state's Environmental Protection Fund.

New York would be just the third state with a statewide ban. California's ban has been in place since 2016. All of Hawaii's counties ban plastic bags but it's not a state-mandated ban.

"The convenience of plastic bags is simply not worth the environmental impact," said Carl Heastie, D-Yonkers. "By reducing our state's usage, we will see less litter in our communities and less plastic pollution in our waterways."

Major issues that didn't make it into the spending plan include legalization of recreational marijuana. Cuomo and legislative leaders have said the issue was too complex to rush into the budget. Instead, it could be handled in separate legislation worked out over the last three months of the legislative session, scheduled to end June 19. The Manhattan tolls plan known as congestion pricing will be the first of its kind in the nation. State leaders said a review board will determine the toll amount, exemptions and credits for drivers headed into the borough's central business district. The billions the tolls are expected to raise will go toward fixing New York City's ailing mass transit system, though a portion of the revenue will go to the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North.

An earlier estimate had put the toll amount for personal vehicles at nearly

\$12. Cuomo said without the tolls, either the subways could continue to deteriorate or fares for subways and city buses would have had to go up 30 percent.

"That was the choice," he said of the toll. "You need a viable mass transit system." The state budget also will include two other dedicated revenue sources for the subways: a "mansion tax" on Manhattan homes that sell for \$25 million or higher, and an internet sales tax levied on retailers who sell merchandise online.

The funding streams for

the Metropolitan Transportation Authority include a reorganization plan and other reforms Cuomo has demanded for the agency that runs the city's buses, subways and commuter trains.


In addition to eliminating cash bail for some charges, other criminal justice reforms include requiring prosecutors and defense lawyers to share all case information well in advance of trials, and speeding up the time it takes for a case to go to trial.

The budget agreement

also establishes a state commission that will come up with a system for public financing of legislative and statewide offices, with up to \$100 million in taxpayer funds authorized annually for such a system.

Cuomo and legislative leaders also agreed to legislation that would allow three hours of paid time off for New Yorkers to vote on Election Day and expand voting hours upstate in primary elections to begin at 6 a.m. instead of noon to match general election hours. □





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## 2 pilots killed in Marine helicopter crash in Arizona

By Associated Press

**YUMA, Ariz. (AP)** — Two Marine pilots have died in a helicopter crash during a training mission in southwestern Arizona, U.S. Marine Corps officials said Sunday.

The AH-1Z Viper crashed Saturday night while the pilots were conducting a training mission as part of a weapons and tactical instructor course, according to the Marine Corps. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Capt. Gabriel Adibe, a Marine Corps spokesman, said the helicopter crashed on the vast Marine Corps Air Station Yuma training grounds but no additional information was immediately available.

The names of the pilots



In this April 17, 2017 photo released by U.S. Marine Corps, an AH-1Z Viper prepares to land at the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif.

Associated Press.

who died have not been released pending notification of their families.

The station is located about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from Yuma and the 1,300-square-mile

(3,367-square-kilometer) training ground is one of the world's largest military installations.

There have been several fatal crashes involving Marine Corps aircraft near

Yuma over the years.

In 1996, a Marine electronic-warfare plane went down during a training mission on a gunnery range near the Gila Mountains, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) east of the Yuma station, killing all four people aboard. The crew was from the Marine base at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and was training at Yuma.

Two Marine pilots, a crew chief and a Navy corpsman died in a 2007 crash of a search-and-rescue helicopter near the Colo-

rado River during a training mission. The crew members were attached to a headquarters squadron of Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma.

In 2012, seven Marines were killed when an AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter and a UH-1Y Huey utility helicopter collided in midair during a training exercise in a remote area of the Yuma training grounds. The crash site was in the Chocolate Mountains on the California side of the range. □

## Forest fire burns thousands of acres in New Jersey Pinelands

**CHATSWORTH, N.J. (AP)** —

Authorities say fire whipped by high winds has spread over thousands of acres of state land in New Jersey's Pine Barrens, a forested area of coastal plain that stretches more than 1 million acres.

State environmental protection department officials say the blaze was reported Saturday afternoon in Penn State Forest in Woodland Township.

Department spokesman Larry Hajna (HAY-nah) said Sunday afternoon the

blaze had grown to 10,000 acres (40 sq. kilometers) with about 75 percent containment. Officials said plumes of smoke were visible from as far as Freehold, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) away.

Hajna says a portion of Route 72, the main road across the Pinelands, has been closed. No homes or businesses are endangered and no injuries or mandatory evacuations have been reported. The cause of the blaze is under investigation. □



Spectators watch as the Spring Hill fire and backfire burns in Woodland Township, N.J., Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Associated Press.

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# Trump's battle with 'Obamacare' moves to the courts

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR** Associated Press  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

After losing in Congress, President Donald Trump is counting on the courts to kill off "Obamacare." But some cases are going against him, and time is not on his side as he tries to score a big win for his re-election campaign.

Two federal judges in Washington, D.C., this past week blocked parts of Trump's health care agenda: work requirements for some low-income people on Medicaid, and new small business health plans that don't have to provide full benefits required by the Affordable Care Act.

But in the biggest case, a federal judge in Texas ruled last December that the ACA is unconstitutional and should be struck down in its entirety. That ruling is now on appeal. At the urging of the White House, the Justice Department said this past week it will support the Texas judge's position and argue that all of "Obamacare" must go.

A problem for Trump is that the litigation could take months to resolve — or longer — and there's no guarantee he'll get the outcomes he wants before the 2020 election.

"Was this a good week for the Trump administration? No," said economist Gail Wilensky, who headed up Medicare under former Republican President George H.W. Bush. "But this is the beginning of a series of judicial challenges."

It's early innings in the court cases, and "the clock is going to run out," said Timothy Jost, a retired law professor who has followed the Obama health law since its inception.

"By the time these cases get through the courts there simply isn't going to be time for the administration to straighten out any messes that get created, much less get a comprehensive plan through Congress," added Jost, who supports the ACA.

In the Texas case, Trump could lose by winning. If former President Barack



In this March 26, 2019 file photo, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., joined at left by Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Frank Pallone, D-N.J., speaks at an event to announce legislation to lower health care costs and protect people with pre-existing medical conditions, at the Capitol in Washington.

Obama's health law is struck down entirely, Congress would face an impossible task: pass a comprehensive health overhaul to replace it that both Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Trump can agree to. The failed attempt to repeal "Obamacare" in 2017 proved to be toxic for congressional Republicans in last year's midterm elections and they are in no mood to repeat it. "The ACA now is nine years old and it would be incredibly disruptive to uproot the whole thing," said Thomas Barker, an attorney with the law firm Foley Hoag, who served as a top lawyer at the federal Health and Human Services department under former Republican President George W. Bush. "It seems to me that you can resolve this issue more narrowly than by striking down the ACA."

Trump seems unfazed by the potential risks.

"Right now, it's losing in court," he asserted Friday, referring to the Texas case against "Obamacare."

The case "probably ends up in the Supreme Court," Trump continued. "But we're doing something that is going to be much less expensive than Obamacare for the people ... and we're going to have (pro-

tections for) pre-existing conditions and will have a much lower deductible. So, and I've been saying that, the Republicans are going to end up being the party of health care."

There's no sign that his ad-

ministration has a comprehensive health care plan, and there doesn't seem to be a consensus among Republicans in Congress.

A common thread in the various health care cases is that they involve lower-

court rulings for now, and there's no telling how they may ultimately be decided. Here's a status check on major lawsuits:

— "Obamacare" Repeal U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth, Texas, ruled that when Congress repealed the ACA's fines for being uninsured, it knocked the constitutional foundation out from under the entire law. His ruling is being appealed by attorneys general from Democratic-led states to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

The challenge to the ACA was filed by officials from Texas and other GOP-led states. It's now fully supported by the Trump administration, which earlier had argued that only the law's protections for people with pre-existing conditions and its limits on how much insurers could charge older, sicker customers were constitutionally tainted. All sides expect the case to go to the Supreme Court, which has twice before upheld the ACA. □

Associated Press.

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## 2020 Democrats in mad dash for donors to make debate stage

By **BILL BARROW,**  
**HUNTER WOODALL**  
and **SARA BURNETT**  
**Associated Press**

The fiercest battle for campaign cash is playing out between the presidential candidates who might not be on your radar.

Ahead of Sunday's fundraising deadline for the first quarter, the underdogs of the Democratic primary were in a mad dash to coax as little as \$2 from grassroots donors.

It's all part of their bid to clear a new threshold from the Democratic National Committee to earn one of 20 highly coveted spots in presidential debates that begin in June.

"I'll be blunt," former Obama Cabinet member Julian Castro told prospective donors in one social media ad that was running as late as Thursday. "The Democratic Party's new debate rules mean I might not make it onto the debate stage."

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand sent multiple fundraising emails pleading her case, telling recipients in one that they could chip in \$5 "to become a founding member" and "help get Kirsten on the debate stage."

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee urges donors in a Facebook ad to "chip in ... at any amount to make sure" his call to combat climate change "is on the stage in June."

John Delaney, a little-known former Maryland congressman, is going a step further. He promised to donate \$2 to charity for every new donor who donated on his website as Sunday's fundraising deadline approached.

At issue are the rules that DNC Chairman Tom Perez announced in February for

the first two debates in June and July: The debates will take place over two back-to-back midweek evenings

fairer by not relying only on polling.

He also wanted to force candidates to "engage

said he raised more than \$6.2 million in his first day, more than surpassing the individual donor require-

Delaney was less enthusiastic as he sought support in Epping, New Hampshire.

"I think it's a weird standard because it's a money standard and I don't think the Democratic Party should qualify candidates based on money," he told The Associated Press.

That's in partial contrast to what Delaney said in December, when he praised Perez for pursuing "a debate structure that is fair and on-the-level" after the chairman first confirmed publicly that grassroots donors might figure into debate qualifications.

Despite any frustration, Delaney is among those benefiting from another side effect of the rules, with some donors spreading their money around to ensure the field doesn't winnow before the debates. That goes for donors big and small.

Major donor Susie Buell is committed to Harris but held a fundraiser for Buttigieg anyway, telling NBC News that "Mayor Pete has a voice that must be heard."

That was the same impetus that spurred Joe Donnoncour to give Delaney's campaign \$20 before he left a recent campaign event. Looking ahead to the debates, he said, "I think everybody should get on there that wants to do it." □



In this March 24, 2019 file photo, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., speaks at the kickoff of her presidential campaign, near the Trump International Hotel and Tower in New York.

**Associated Press.**

with 10 slots each night. Candidates have two paths to the stage: They can either achieve 1 percent support in three reputable national or early nominating state polls or they can collect contributions from at least 65,000 donors, with a minimum of 200 in at least 20 states. The amount raised doesn't matter. It's all about how many voters are contributing.

It's not immediately clear how many candidates are short of the fundraising threshold and how many might be using the rules as a way to expand their fundraising base.

That won't be known until mid-April, when campaign finance disclosures are next due with the Federal Elections Commission.

Perez says he's not concerned either way, arguing that he wanted to make the debate qualifications

with the grassroots," those people who have provided Democrats with energy and votes since President Donald Trump's election in 2016.

"It's important to empower the grassroots," Perez said recently on C-SPAN, explaining that the DNC worked with ActBlue, the online fundraising juggernaut for Democrats, to come up with the threshold.

He characterized the requirements as "not a layup for any candidate but also not a full-court shot."

It actually might be a layup for a few candidates. Sen. Bernie Sanders' campaign says he has more than 760,000 donors, another eye-popping mark after hauling in more than \$10 million in the first week after his official campaign launch. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke's campaign

ments.

California Sen. Kamala Harris raised more than \$4 million in her first day.

But Perez says his point stands, with rules that help candidates by relieving them of polling pressure while still requiring them to show progress among voters.

Pete Buttigieg, the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, said the rules forced him to tailor his fundraising efforts to the grassroots. He said he already has surpassed the requirements.

"All of us, I think, are going to be responding to the incentives that the DNC creates," Buttigieg said in an interview, "and whether it's intentional or whether it's just a happy side effect, it just amplified the kind of on-the-ground quality that hopefully will be a spirit that stays in this cycle throughout."

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## Schumer wants Boeing off FAA committee amid investigations

By The Associated Press

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer wants Boeing to be removed from a Federal Aviation Administration rulemaking committee as investigations deepen into both the company and regulator's role in two deadly airline crashes. Senate Democratic Leader Schumer said Sunday that Boeing should be suspended from the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory

Committee, which makes recommendations on airline industry regulations. He also wants the membership and activities of the committee to be made public and suggested further reforms to the committee. Congress is looking closely at the relationship between Boeing and the FAA after two recent deadly crashes. Both crashes involved a Boeing jet green-lighted by the U.S. regulator, which

relied heavily on safety assessments made by Boeing employees. The FAA said it had not received Schumer's request and would provide a response when it does. A representative for Boeing was not immediately available. □



In a Feb. 26, 2019 file photo, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press.

## Rev. Jackson plans rally in support of Chicago prosecutor



In this March 26, 2019, file photo, Actor Jussie Smollett leaves the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago after prosecutors dropped all charges against him.

Associated Press.

By Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — The Rev. Jesse Jackson and other clergy are planning a rally in support of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, who's faced criticism since her office dropped charges against actor Jussie Smollett.

Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition says the civil rights leader will join fellow clergy, elected officials, attorneys and community activists for a Monday morning rally at the Chicago Temple supporting Foxx. Jackson says in a statement that the criticism of Foxx is "unreasonable, unjustified and politically motivated." Foxx has faced criticism

since prosecutors dismissed all 16 felony counts against Smollett, who is black and gay. The "Empire" actor was accused of faking a racist, anti-gay attack on himself in January. Authorities say that in return for the charges being dropped, Smollett agreed to forfeit the \$10,000 he put up to get out of jail and completed community service. The Chicago Tribune reports that the community service included volunteering at Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. The Fraternal Order of Police in Chicago plans a protest outside Foxx's office Monday over the dismissal of the Smollett charges. □

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## Brexit creates power vacuum at heart of Britain's government

By **DANICA KIRKA**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's Parliament is deadlocked over plans to leave the European Union. The country's ruling Conservative Party is fractured by an undeclared leadership contest. Opposition parties are baying for an early general election.

A power vacuum has paralyzed the heart of Britain's government, dismaying both the European Union and the British public.

In the next two weeks, British Prime Minister Theresa May will lead the U.K. through domestic and international negotiations that will decide the fate of Brexit and determine the future of generations. Her task, as it's been for almost three years, is to bridge the increasingly bitter divide that separates those who want to sever links with the EU and those who want to keep the ties that have bound Britain to the bloc for almost 50 years.

"In any other circumstance, they would have rolled her by now, either formally or informally," said Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. "She's the default because no one else wants the job."

The power vacuum means May has almost no leverage as she tries to engineer a compromise with U.K. lawmakers who last week took control of the parliamentary agenda to debate alternatives to her Brexit deal, which has already been rejected by Parliament three times.

The House of Commons is scheduled to vote Mon-



**Pro-Brexit leave the European Union supporters attend a rally in Parliament Square after the final leg of the "March to Leave" in London, Saturday, March 30, 2019.**

Associated Press

day on a variety of Brexit options, with two ideas — staying in the EU customs union and holding a second referendum on Brexit — emerging as the most likely alternatives.

While Justice Secretary David Gauke said Sunday the government would have to "very carefully consider" the wishes of Parliament, he also said May's EU divorce deal is still the best alternative. Gauke said the prime minister was "reflecting" on the possibility of bringing it back to Parliament for a fourth vote.

If the government can't bridge the gap by April 12, Britain will crash out of the EU without a plan for future relations, damaging its economy, undermining the country's unity and di-

minishing its stature in the world. "I think it would be very, very bad news indeed," Gauke told the BBC. "I don't think the British people would thank us if we left without a deal."

May's political weakness stretches back to when she took office in July 2016, less than a month after Britain voted 52 percent to 48 percent in favor of leaving the EU. Despite the close result on such a momentous decision, May did little to build consensus about what Britain's departure from the world's largest trading bloc should look like.

Instead, she set out her own red lines: Britain must end the free movement of people coming in, end the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in

Britain and leave the European customs union so Britain could negotiate trade deals with other countries. Then, seeking to bolster the small majority left to her by her predecessor, David Cameron, May called a disastrous early election in which she lost 13 seats. That left May as the leader of a minority Conservative government and forced her into an alliance with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party.

Though weakened, May kept Brexit strategy in the hands of the Conservative Party and more specifically her own advisers.

But Brexit cuts across traditional political lines. Both May's Conservatives and the opposition Labour party are split between those who want to sever links to the EU and those who want to remain close to the bloc. Even so, May has been reluctant to reach out to Labour for fear of deepening the split in her own party.

"She feels trapped politically," said Thomas Raines, head of the Europe program at the Chatham House think tank. "Each step she takes toward the Labour Party will lose her support on her right flank." Complicating the equation is the staunch opposition of May's erstwhile allies in the DUP, which refuses to back her Brexit withdrawal deal because it treats Northern Ireland differently than the rest of the U.K., and the Scottish National Party, which wants to remain in the EU.

"Everyone is still convinced they can have their first choice outcome," Raines said. "They cannot see

their way to a compromise." Even if May is able to secure a withdrawal deal, more negotiations lie ahead because Britain and the EU still need to work out exactly what their future relationship will look like. In an effort to win support for her deal, May said she wouldn't lead those talks. That has triggered a Conservative party beauty contest among possible successors, with newspapers offering odds on those vying for the top job. Former Prime Minister John Major warned, though, that even changing leaders would do little to break the deadlock in Parliament.

"Of course, a new leader may, depending upon who it is, have less baggage than a prime minister who's had to fight for everything from the moment she went into Downing Street," he told the BBC.

"But it doesn't change the numbers. It doesn't change the arithmetic. It doesn't change the instincts and convictions of people both in the Remain and in the Leave camp."

That leaves the prospect of calling a general election in hopes of securing a stable majority government in Britain. Labour is eager to go to the voters and such a move might persuade the EU to extend the Brexit talks for a second time.

But most Conservatives are opposed, fearing they would be punished for three years of deadlock. Alistair Burt, who resigned as foreign office minister after voting against May's Brexit deal, told Sky News he didn't think a new election would be helpful. □





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## Turkey's ruling party leads local elections but loses Ankara

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party led Sunday's mayoral elections but suffered setbacks as the opposition regained hold of the capital Ankara and made significant inroads in other parts of Turkey. The elections, which the Turkish strongman had depicted as a fight for the country's survival, were largely seen as a test of his support amid a sharp economic downturn.

Erdogan's conservative, Islamic-based Justice and Development Party, or AKP, took nearly 45 percent of the votes in the elections after 90 percent of the more than 194,000 ballot boxes were counted, according to state broadcaster TRT. The secular, main opposition party, the Republican People's Party, or CHP had 30 percent.

The CHP's mayoral candidate for Ankara, Mansur Yavas, however, won control of Ankara after 25 years of rule by the AKP and a predecessor party. The 63-year-old lawyer received more than 50 percent of the votes, according to TRT. The CHP and its allies also posted gains elsewhere, increasing the number of city mayoral seats from 14 in the previous local elections in 2014 to 20, according to the preliminary results.

"History is being written in Ankara," said deputy CHP leader Haluk Koc, while thousands of supporters celebrated outside the



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, leaves the polling booth during local elections, in Istanbul, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

party's headquarters in Ankara. Former Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, the ruling party's candidate for mayor of Istanbul declared victory even though the race in Turkey's largest city and commercial hub was too close to call. Yildirim garnered 48.71 percent of the votes against the opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu's 48.65 percent. CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu rebuked Yildirim for declaring victory "in haste."

Erdogan attaches great importance to Istanbul where he began his rise to power as its mayor in 1994. He has said at campaign rallies that "whoever wins Istanbul, wins Turkey."

Ankara was considered the main battleground of the race, where a former government environment minister, Mehmet Ozhaseki,

ran for mayor under the banner of Erdogan and his nationalist allies. The ruling party accused his opponent Yavas of forgery and tax evasion. Yavas says he is the victim of a smear campaign. Sunday's elections were a first test for Erdogan since he won re-election under a new system of government that gave the presidency expanded powers. Erdogan campaigned tirelessly for AKP's candidates, framing the municipal elections as a matter of "national survival." He also portrayed the country's economic woes as attacks by enemies at home and abroad. "Those who have tried to bring our country on its knees by damaging our people's unity and togetherness, have once again been dealt a blow," Erdo-

gan said, noting that the party had emerged as the winner nationwide by a large margin.

The voting was marred by scattered election violence that killed at least four people and injured dozens of others across Turkey. Unofficial final results were expected late Sunday.

Years of economic prosperity provided Erdogan and his party with previous election victories. But the race for 30 large cities, 51 provincial capitals and hundreds of districts were held as Turkey grapples with a weakened currency, a double-digit inflation rate and soaring food prices. The high stakes of the local contests were brought into stark display with the deaths of two members of the Islamic-oriented Felicity Party, a small rival of the

president's Justice and Development Party. Felicity's leader, Temel Karamollaoğlu, alleged a polling station volunteer and a party observer were shot by a relative of a ruling party candidate. Speaking to reporters after he voted, Erdogan said he was sad about the deaths and didn't want them to become a cause for "a questioning or a judgment between political parties."

Two other people were killed in fighting in the southern city of Gaziantep. Fights related to local elections in several provinces also produced dozens of injuries, Turkey's official Anadolu news agency reported. The exact causes of the fights remained unclear. Election campaigning was highly polarized, with Erdogan and other officials using hostile rhetoric toward opposition candidates. Erdogan's ruling party had renewed an alliance with the country's nationalist party to increase votes. Opposition parties also coordinated strategies and put forward candidates under alliances in an effort to maximize the chances of unseating members of the AKP.

The pro-Kurdish, People's Democratic Party appeared to have regained seats in several districts in Turkey's mostly-Kurdish southeast region where Erdogan's government had replaced elected mayors with government-appointed trustees, alleging that the ousted officials had links to outlawed Kurdish militants. □



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## Israel, Hamas take first steps toward Gaza cease-fire deal

**ISABEL DEBRE**

**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — A cease-fire deal appeared to take hold between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers on Sunday, with Israel expanding the permitted fishing zone and easing some tight restrictions on movement through its two main crossings with the Palestinian enclave.

Egyptian mediators have worked in recent days to broker a cease-fire agreement, but talks have been repeatedly interrupted by Palestinian rocket attacks and Israeli military reprisals. The violence has heightened tensions just over a week before Israeli national elections.

In a sign that Egyptian efforts have made progress,

the Gaza fishermen's committee said Israel would be extending the permitted fishing zone along the Mediterranean coast to a maximum of 15 nautical miles (28 kilometers), up from the previous limit of nine nautical miles (17 kilometers). Fishing had been off-limits since Gaza militants launched a rocket toward Tel Aviv last week, touching off rounds of short but intense cross-border fighting between the bitter enemies.

Israeli officials confirmed that the reopening of the fishing zone would go into effect Monday.

The lifting of some restrictions on the passage of people and cargo in and out of Gaza further indicated a strengthening of the



Israeli soldiers take positions on the Israel and Gaza border during a Palestinian protest, Saturday, March 30, 2019.

**Associated Press**

cease-fire, which Hamas officials say would see Israel easing its blockade in exchange for guarantees of quiet.

Israeli and Hamas officials confirmed that the Erez and Kerem Shalom border crossings were re-opened, in a very restricted fashion, for the first time since violence flared up last Monday.

The first steps toward the restoration of calm were nonetheless punctuated by exchanges of fire along the border. Just hours after Israel announced the reopening of its main Gaza crossings Sunday, a mortar shell was launched from the Gaza Strip toward Israel, the army said.

The projectile did not cross into Israeli territory but did

set off air-raid sirens in the country's south. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and no immediate Israeli response. Earlier Sunday, Palestinian militants launched rockets into Israel during the night, and the military responded with tank fire. Four Palestinians, including three teenagers, were killed by Israeli fire on Saturday as tens of thousands of people took part in mass rallies that marked the first anniversary of demonstrations along the Israel-Gaza perimeter fence.

Dozens of activists approached the fence during Saturday's demonstration, hurling stones and explosives toward Israeli forces. Israel says it is defending its border but has come under heavy international criticism for the large number of unarmed Palestinian demonstrators who have been shot over the past 12 months. □



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## One of Russia's richest women dies in plane crash in Germany

**By DAVID McHUGH**

**Associated Press**

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — One of Russia's richest women, S7 Group co-owner Natalia Fileva, died Sunday in a plane crash in Germany, the airline operator said.

Fileva, 55, was aboard a single-engine, six-seat Epic LT aircraft that crashed and burned in a field as it approached the small airport at Egelsbach, a town in southwestern Germany, at about 3:30 p.m. (1330 GMT), the airline said in an email.

German police said there appeared to be three people aboard the plane, including the pilot of the



A damaged police car is seen next to a road in Langen near Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

**Associated Press**

flight, which originated in France. They said the two passengers were believed to be Russian citizens but that positive identification of the occupants would

require further investigation. German aviation authorities were probing the cause of the crash. Egelsbach is about 10 kilometers (six miles) south of Frankfurt. □





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## Proposed Hong Kong extradition law changes spark concerns

Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Business and human rights groups are expressing concern over proposed changes to Hong Kong's extradition law that would allow suspects to be sent to mainland China, where they could be subject to torture and unfair prosecution. They say the move would harm the Asian financial hub's attractiveness to international business. Hong Kong currently limits such extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing extradition agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before the semi-autonomous territory's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights. However, changes to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance would expand the scope for the



Protesters with placards and flags against an extradition law march toward the government headquarters in Hong Kong, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Associated Press

transfer of criminal suspects to China and remove the legislature's right to scrutinize individual extradition decisions filed by Hong Kong's chief executive. Thousands of members of the city's beleaguered pro-democracy camp marched to government headquarters on Sunday afternoon, an unusually large turnout for such events in recent years. "The number of people

turning up speaks loads about the concerns of Hong Kong people," Alan Leong, chairman of the Hong Kong Civic Party, told participants. "Hong Kong people have complete lack of confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judicial system in China," said Albert Ho, chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Move-

ment in China. Police put the number of participants at 5,000, while participants said at least 10,000 turned out. In a statement issued Sunday, Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, said, "These amendments would heighten the risk for human rights activists and others critical of China being extradited to the mainland for trial on fabricated charges." "The amendments would tarnish Hong Kong's reputation for the rule of law, and should be scrapped," Richardson said, adding that the legal changes would put Hong Kong people "at risk of torture and unfair trials." Those concerns were reflected in a letter to Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam authored by Human Rights Watch along with the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor and the local branch of Amnesty International. The groups warned that fear of extradition to China — which routinely uses trumped-up charges of

tax evasion or other economic crimes to punish political critics — could stifle civil society and freedom of speech in Hong Kong, where civil liberties are already under assault from pro-Beijing groups. In recent years, several people connected with a Hong Kong publishing house that produced unflattering books on mainland Chinese leaders have appeared in Chinese police custody after apparently being abducted, along with a prominent business person wanted on the mainland.

Unlike China, Hong Kong is subject to the U.N. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as "customary international law," which "prohibit returning people to places where there is a real risk of torture and other ill-treatment, unfair trials, and other serious human rights violations," the letter said. □

## N. Korea calls for investigation into Madrid embassy attack

By ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — North Korea said Sunday it wants an investigation into a raid on its embassy in Spain last month, calling it a "grave terrorist attack" and an act of extortion that violates international law. The incident occurred ahead of President Donald Trump's second summit with leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi on Feb. 27-28. A mysterious group calling for the overthrow of the North Korean regime has claimed responsibility. The North's official media quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that



This Wednesday, March 13, 2019 file photo shows a general view of North Korea's embassy in Madrid, Spain.

Associated Press

an illegal intrusion into and occupation of a diplomatic mission and an act of extortion are a grave breach

of the state sovereignty and a flagrant violation of international law, "and this kind of act should never be

tolerated."

He claimed an armed group tortured the staff and suggested they stole communications gear. The 10 people who allegedly raided the embassy in Madrid belong to a mysterious dissident organization that styles itself as a government-in-exile dedicated to toppling the ruling Kim family dynasty. The leader of the alleged intruders appears to be a Yale-educated human rights activist who was once jailed in China while trying to rescue North Korean defectors living in hiding, according to activists and defectors. Details have begun trick-

ling out about the raid after a Spanish judge lifted a secrecy order last week and said an investigation of what happened on Feb. 22 uncovered evidence that "a criminal organization" shackled and gagged embassy staff before escaping with computers, hard drives and documents. A U.S. official said the group is named Cheollima Civil Defense, a little-known organization that recently called for international solidarity in the fight against North Korea's government. Spain has issued at least two international arrest warrants for members of the group. □



# Caravan of 40 Salvadoran migrants sets out for US border

By **MARCOS ALEMAN**  
**AMY GUTHRIE**

**Associated Press**

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)** — The “mother of all caravans” expected to depart from Central America has begun by looking more like the baby of all caravans, after a group of about 40 migrants left Saturday for the U.S. from the capital of El Salvador.

It was not immediately clear whether they planned to meet with other migrants from Guatemala and Honduras, but the Honduran government denied there was another caravan forming in its country.

In a statement Friday, Honduran Foreign Minister Maria Dolores Aguero suggested that such assertions could actually spur aspiring



Central American migrants, part of the caravan hoping to reach the U.S. border, move on a road in Tapachula, Chiapas State, Mexico, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

**Associated Press**

migrants to come together in larger groups.

“I respectfully suggest that information of this kind be shared with the government of Honduras prior to making public statements that, as we have seen, ultimately become triggers

for action by organizations that activate and lead these forms of migratory mobilization,” Aguero said. Mexican Interior Secretary Olga Sanchez Cordero said earlier in the week that a caravan of migrants from Central America could be

forming with more than 20,000 people, and she pledged to form a “containment” line around Mexico’s narrow Tehuantepec Isthmus to stop migrants from continuing north.

But fears over a larger caravan and the promised Mexican deployment of federal police have only appeared to heighten tensions.

The U.S. state department said this week it was cutting aid to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala and President Donald Trump accused their leaders of doing “nothing” to prevent mass migration to the United States.

Trump also said he is likely to shut down America’s southern border next week unless Mexican authorities immediately halt all illegal immigration, adding that it would be “so easy” to stop migrants passing through the country in an attempt to enter the U.S.

A border shutdown would be a major blow for both Mexico and the U.S. □

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## Nationwide blackouts become the norm in Venezuela

By **CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Another day, another blackout.

Power went out across Venezuela on Sunday, just as it did on Saturday, and the day before that.

But while some electricity had returned by Sunday afternoon, jittery Venezuelans weren’t so much celebrating the lights coming on as wondering when the next outages would flick them off.

“No one can put up with this. We spend almost all day without electricity,” said Karina Camacho, a 56-year-old housewife who was about to buy a chicken when electronic payment machines stopped working. “There’s been no water since (last) Monday, you can’t call by phone, we can’t pay with cards or even eat.”

As the latest blackout unfolded, many took to bal-



People wearing El Universal newspaper uniforms sit in the dark office of an office building during a power outage in Caracas, Venezuela, on Saturday, March 30, 2019.

**Associated Press**

conies and building windows to bang pots in protest and shout curses at President Nicolas Maduro, who they consider responsible for the power failures. Others responded to a call by opposition leader Juan Guaido to demonstrate against the government, blocking roads and burning rubbish until “colectivos,” or frequently armed

government supporters, appeared to arrive on motorbikes.

The ongoing blackouts now mark another point of tension in a country paralyzed by political and economic turmoil, compounding a humanitarian crisis and deepening a prolonged standoff between two political parties vying for power. □



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### Tower One: 80% Closed Sale

Enthusiastic sales Manager Marinelda Car-taya has no problems explaining why this is called condominiums with a plus. "All condominiums face the clear blue ocean with the white-sandy beaches, even the ones on the ground floor. Tower 1 is already completed and space wise you cannot go wrong: the 2

-bedroom condominiums are 1024 sq. ft. and the 3-bedroom units 1670 sq. ft. Storage is included so just leave your chairs and bicycles locked up, even when you rent out your units, rooms are offered in lock offs meaning your personal belongings stay safe in one locked bedroom while the rest of the place can be rented out." Tower 1 only has eight 3-bedroom condos still available, more than 80 % of the sale is closed already.

### Tower Two: over 50 % Sold

Tower two is under construction and sales has taken off very well here. More than 50 % is sold including the penthouse, 3-bedroom condos, 2-bedroom condos and one bedroom condos. From the studios only two are left and from the 1-bedrooms only four are left.

### Construction Flourish

The good thing about Azure is that the end result can already be shown as Tower 1 is

ready, but the progress of Tower 2 also gives significant satisfaction. "The divisions of the different condos are done, the floors are tiled and the tower is being painted. Air-conditioning is installed and the pool is close to finished", Marinelda explains.

### Services

"The Club House is finished now and I can tell you honestly that the amenities we have here are unique. They are different from the other condominiums because we have a separate building where we offer a nice lobby, a restaurant bar, the owners club with a pool table, and where you can play chest or any kind of game and an outside area with BBQ/grills so you can bring your family and friends along", says Marinelda. "It creates that family, intimate, homey feeling. By the way we share amenities with Blue Residences where they have a playground for kids as well as a beach tennis field." Even for breakfast, lunch and dinner one of the best restaurants on the island is right on the premises: Table Kitchen Table by White and opened later this year will be the cafe/bar at Azure's lobby. At Azure Beach Residences you get in touch with the locals when you do your groceries and make this your home, but at the same time you have the luxury of a resort.

"Important to mention is that we are energy efficient as all units have double glass, we use a well reuse "grey" waters for watering the garden and will soon install solar panels for lighting of the common areas. "We aim for an eco-friendly sustainable development" says Marinelda. In her opinion potential buyers want to feel trust and that is exactly what Azure offers.

For more information you can visit the website [http:// www.azure-aruba.com](http://www.azure-aruba.com). The sales office is open every week day from 9 AM -5 PM, Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM. □





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## Honoring of loyal and friendly visitors at Barcelo Aruba

ORANJESTAD— Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a lovely couple as Distinguished Visitors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Neal & Kristine Abrams resident from Massachusetts.

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island especially for the lovely people, the beautiful sunsets, the wonderful staff at Barcelo and the direct flight from Boston.

De Cuba together with Sandra Steba representative of Barcelo Aruba presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



## April is Autism Awareness month

# Light It Up Blue

April 2nd, 2019

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE!

**WEAR BLUE**  
Wear something blue on April 2nd in support of understanding and acceptance for people with autism.

**SHARE BLUE**  
Take a selfie w/ #LightItUpBlue!

**SPREAD BLUE**  
Add the #LightItUpBlue Facebook frame to your profile photo! Just search for "Autism Speaks."

**SUPPORT BLUE**  
Start a Facebook fundraiser for World Autism Month in three easy steps!  
Set your fundraising goal  
Tell your story



ORANJESTAD – World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day, which takes place April 2nd every year, with the purpose to encourage everyone to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly.

The foundation for Autism Awareness in Aruba the (FAA) unites with partners all over the world to celebrate this day. The foundation will be holding a ceremony called 'Light it up Blue' in front of the government office building at 7:00 PM. The building will be light up in blue. This is a worldwide event organized by the Autism Speaks organization.

FAA would like to invite the entire community of Aruba to wear something blue (royal blue) on this day which is the color that symbolizes autism. Also businesses and houses can be decorated in blue as a support to this cause. The 'light it up blue' will be the highlight of the night.

On April 7th, 2019 the foundation in partnership with Patrishi Sports will be organizing a Blue Race Run & Walk.

This 5km run will start at 6:00 am at the Fisherman's Hut in Noord. The movement is Life foundation also joined this cause and will be providing dry-fit shirts to all participants.

For more information please visit [www.thebluerace.com](http://www.thebluerace.com)

The foundation is also conducting a survey about the knowledge and awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in our community, which consists of 10 simple questions.

Based on the information gathered the foundation will be able to determine their points of attention to this matter. During the entire month the foundation will be organizing several workshops on how to deal with persons with autism.

For more information check out the Facebook page Fundacion Autismo Aruba. □



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## Tuscany Residence reaches Highest Construction Point



**NOORD** — The developers of Tuscany Residence Aruba had all reason to celebrate last Friday as the construction of the first part of the residence reached its highest point, in Dutch called 'Spantenbier'. The word refers to the drinking of beers to cheer for the achievement that is reached. Construction companies, residence owners, clients, suppliers

and other relations were present during a festive afternoon where everyone seemed very happy.

Within 2.000 feet of the Palm Beach area, which is the place to be in the island, and a 15-minute drive to Oranjestad, we find Tuscany Residence. The residence's first phase (total project contains +/- 180 units) offers eight luxurious



Townhouses in beautiful Dutch design up to 2.098ft property land and a total of 1.582ft living space. They are fully equipped with high quality standards, like a European kitchen and Banjolux bathrooms. 36 Condos located in three buildings are a wonderful vacation escape or a great investment, it is up to you. What about eight amazing 2-Layer & 3-Layer Villas with up to 50m2 pool, stunning Dutch architecture and allure? There is an ocean of possibilities here, so pay the a visit and see for yourself.

For more information check their website [www.tuscany-residencearuba.com](http://www.tuscany-residencearuba.com). Or

facebook page: [tuscany residence aruba](https://www.facebook.com/tuscany-residence-aruba). ☐







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# Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

## A happy working environment

**ORANJESTAD** — On average people spend 40+ hours a week at work and in the hospitality industry in Aruba, most of the working population has spent their 40+ hours at work at the same place for decades. Having loyal employees is usually a sign of a good employer and a great work environment. On a global scale of the entire apparatus that may be true, but on a departmental level it's a different story.

Anywhere you go to work there will always be a few negative influencers. The misery loves company types, who walk around with a dark cloud over their heads and try to expose their colleagues to it. These people are either unaware or don't care about the negative impact their attitude has on the moral of others on staff. Once that toxicity spreads it becomes this feedback loop of doom that makes everyone else miserable and makes for an unpleasant work environment. Of course people have bad days and that's fine, but this consistent stream of negativity not only affects the performance of one employee, it also impacts the work of others.

I've been in that situation over the term of my career and it's fascinating to see it and note the changes. One moment the energy in the department is great, guests are greeted with a smile, jokes are being made and there's even some light music going to break up the boring. Until you hear this one person coming into start this shift, all of a sudden the energy changes, everyone is tense and annoyed, just waiting for their day to end. Guests are being answered in a curter and direct manner, the smiles are tighter than they were before and service levels drop to the bare minimum.

If this person and their bad attitude are allowed to continue to fester it will inevitably infect the whole department and spread to others. This is where effective and fair managers need to step in and cut out the rot before it can spread. Especially with a long time employee it's the job of the manager or the supervisor to pull them aside and alert them to their behavior and the effect it's having on everyone else on their team, its possible this is all that is needed for a turn around. If after that conversation is had the behavior persists then they have to escalate the situation and involve the HR department.

It's a difficult balancing act but for the good of the other employees and in keeping a healthy work environment, those who are disruptive need to be removed. Everyone who is serious about their job, should be assured that the place they spend a majority of their day is one where they're allowed to flourish.

Our guests deserve the service they pay for and that starts with happy employees. Discord behind the scenes, won't take long to show itself to those you provide service to. Once that happens then there could be a loss of business with negative reviews. So for the good of our business, our guests and most importantly our colleagues, we as managers and supervisors are constantly on alert to make sure everyone can work comfortably. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.



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## Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... (Email: [news@arubato-day.com](mailto:news@arubato-day.com)) ☐



For today's newspaper we received a great picture from:

**Madilyn Dundee, Tinley Park, Illinois. She wrote:**

**"Aruba is to me.....  
Serenity"**

This was my 7th time in Aruba and I can't wait until February 2020.





# SPORTS



Detroit Tigers right fielder Nicholas Castellanos, center, celebrates with teammates after defeating the Toronto Blue Jays following a baseball game in Toronto on Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Associated Press

## Castellanos lifts Tigers over Blue Jays 4-3 in 11 innings

By IAN HARRISON  
Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — After getting blanked in back-to-back losses, the Detroit Tigers scored just enough runs Sunday to leave Canada on a winning note. Nicholas Castellanos had an RBI single in the 11th inning, Jeimer Candelario got five hits and the Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 despite blowing a late lead. "That was a huge win for us," said shortstop Jordy Mercer, who preserved a 3-all tie with a defensive gem in the 10th inning. "I'm not talking record-wise, I'm talking about momentum. I'm talking coming together as a team, not giving up. That's what good teams are made of." Castellanos drove in catcher Grayson Greiner, and the Tigers salvaged a split of the four-game series to open the season. The decisive hit came off left-hander Thomas Pannone (0-1), Toronto's eighth pitcher of the game.

Continued on Page 20



# Hard Rock

## Harden scores 50, has triple-double as Rockets beat Kings

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) shoots as Sacramento Kings forward Marvin Bagley III (35) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press  
Page 19



## NBA Capsules

By The Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — James Harden had 50 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, scoring 10 straight Houston points down the stretch to help the Rockets beat the Sacramento Kings 119-108 on Saturday.

Harden had his 42nd career triple-double and third 50-point game in the last six. He made seven 3-pointers to become the ninth player in NBA history to reach 2,000 career 3s.

Clint Capela added 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Chris Paul had 22 points. Houston has won four of five.

Bogdan Bogdanovic had 24 points for the Kings. They have lost two straight and fell to 0-3 against Houston this season.

**76ERS 118, TIMBERWOLVES 109**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Tobias Harris scored 25 points for Philadelphia in Jimmy Butler's jeer-filled return to Minnesota, helping the 76ers hang on and move one step closer toward solidifying the No. 3 seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Ben Simmons pitched in 20 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for the Sixers (49-27), who stretched their lead over Boston and Indiana to 4½ games with eight games to go. They're still four games behind second-place Toronto.

Rookie Jonah Bolden filled in for Joel Embiid and posted a career-best 19 points for the Sixers, who overcame the precautionary absence of their All-Star center and a quiet night by Butler (12 points on 4-for-17 shooting with 13 rebounds and five assists) to start a three-game road trip with a quality win.

**NETS 110, CELTICS 96**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — D'Angelo Russell scored 20 of his 29 points in another blistering third quarter against Boston, leading Brooklyn over the short-handed Celtics.

Back from a seven-game trip that lasted more than two weeks, the Nets had a happy homecoming thanks largely to Russell, who added 10 assists and

finished with 25 points after halftime.

Gordon Hayward scored 19 points for the Celtics, who rested Kyrie Irving and Al Horford on the second night of back-to-back games after a big victory over Indiana a night earlier.

**PISTONS 99, TRAIL BLAZERS 90**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Reggie Jackson scored 28 points, Andre Drummond had 22 points and 19 rebounds, and Detroit ended Portland's six-game winning streak.

The Pistons were missing Blake Griffin, who was scratched moments before game time with a sore left knee, but were able to maintain a half-game lead over the Brooklyn Nets for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference. Detroit has won 11 straight at home.

Damian Lillard scored 23 points and Enes Kanter added 20 points and 15 rebounds for Portland, which fell a half-game behind the Houston Rockets for the third seed in the Western Conference.

**MAGIC 121, PACERS 116**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Aaron Gordon had 23 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Orlando racked up a season-high 37 assists in a win over Indiana to keep pace in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Coming off a blowout loss at Detroit that snapped a six-game win streak, Orlando got back on track with a relentless attack. The Magic shot 51 percent from the field and finished with only seven turnovers.

Orlando remained a half-game behind Miami for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot after the Heat beat the New York Knicks.

Darren Collison posted 24 points and nine assists for the Pacers, who shot 53 percent from the field but committed 15 turnovers in losing to the Magic for the third time this season.

**HEAT 100, KNICKS 92**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Dion Waiters scored 28 points, Dwyane Wade added 16 in his last game at Madison Square Garden, and Miami beat New York.

Hassan Whiteside finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Heat, while Kelly Olynyk chipped in 12 points and 11 rebounds. Goran Dragic had 10 points and 10 assists.

The Heat have won six of their last eight games and hold a half-game lead over Orlando for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference.

**RAPTORS 124, BULLS 101**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Serge Ibaka had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Fred VanVleet also scored 23 and Toronto routed Chicago despite playing without Kawhi Leonard and Pascal Siakam.

Marc Gasol had 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists as Toronto won its third straight. □



Houston Rockets guard James Harden, left, shakes hands with Chris Paul after Harden's 2,000th career 3-point basket, during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings, Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

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# Castellanos lifts Tigers over Blue Jays 4-3 in 11 innings

Continued from Page 18

"It's a really good feeling for the team," Candelario said.

Candelario drove in two runs and Daniel Stumpf (1-0) pitched one inning for the win. Toronto put a runner at third with two outs in the bottom of the 11th but Shane Greene got Teoscar Hernandez to line out for his second save.

Candelario came in 1 for 12 on the season and 0 for 9 with seven strikeouts since his lone base hit on opening day. He singled in the first, sixth, seventh and 11th, and doubled in the ninth.

"He had a great day, a super day," Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire said. "Five hits in a ballgame is pretty special."



**Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Richard Urena (7) is tagged out at home plate by Detroit Tigers catcher Grayson Greiner (17) during the tenth inning of a baseball game in Toronto on Sunday, March 31, 2019.**

Associated Press

Trailing 3-0 in the eighth, the Blue Jays tied it against Joe Jimenez when pinch-hitter Rowdy Tellez hit a three-run homer to center field.

The drive undid seven shut-

out innings by Tigers starter Matt Moore. Making his Detroit debut, the left-hander allowed two hits, walked one and struck out six.

Moore was perfect through

four before walking Randal Grichuk on a 3-2 pitch to begin the fifth. Moore lost his no-hit bid with one out in the sixth when Richard Urena grounded a single up the middle. Danny Jansen's two-out double moved Urena to third, but Moore escaped by fanning Brandon Drury.

After doubling against Stumpf in the 10th, Urena tried to score from second on an infield single by pinch-hitter Freddy Galvis. Mercer, who had dived to his right to corral Galvis' hit, threw home from his knees in time to retire Urena and send the game to the 11th.

"That was probably the play of the game," Greiner said. "That was incredible." Scrambling after the loose ball, not looking at the run-

ner, Mercer said he knew Urena was trying to score when he heard the crowd noise rise.

"That's when I knew I had one chance to pick it up and throw it," Mercer said. "I just picked it up, turned and threw it. Luckily it was a good throw."

Detroit, which had mustered two runs through its first three games and none since the 10th inning on opening day, snapped a 24-inning scoreless drought with a three-run seventh. Javy Guerra issued a bases-loaded walk to Mercer before Candelario followed with a two-run single. Making his major league debut, Blue Jays right-hander Trent Thornton allowed two hits in five shutout innings. Toronto starting pitchers have worked 24 consecutive scoreless innings to begin the season, tripling the previous club record. It's baseball's longest such streak since Atlanta starters threw 25 shutout innings to begin the 1994 season. Thornton struck out eight, the most by a Blue Jays pitcher making his first big league appearance.

The previous record was seven, jointly held by Matt Boyd and Marc Rzepczynski.

"I know Detroit is struggling at the plate, but his stuff (is) 94-95 (mph) with the breaking pitches and everything," Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo said. "He could've gotten any team out."

## YOUNG GUN

Thornton wasn't the only Blue Jays pitcher to make his debut. Right-hander Elvis Luciano, who turned 19 in February, became the youngest pitcher in team history when he replaced Guerra in the seventh. Luciano, selected from Kansas City in the Rule 5 draft at the winter meetings in December, is the first big league player born in this century. He allowed one hit in 1 1/3 innings.

"I wasn't nervous at all," Luciano said through a translator. "I was anxious because I really wanted to do the best I could for the team." □

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# Federer wins 101st title, beating Isner in Miami Open final

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— Orange streamers rained down while Roger Federer held another championship trophy aloft, his familiar grin as wide as ever.

For the ageless Federer, winning never gets old.

Now 37, Federer became tennis' first repeat champion of 2019 when he won his 101st career title Sunday by beating a hobbled John Isner in the Miami Open final, 6-1, 6-4.

Federer neutralized Isner's big serve and won 32 of 35 points on his own serve. The 6-foot-10 Isner scrambled so desperately to stay in rallies that he hurt his left foot and limped badly through the final few points.

Isner said afterward he didn't yet know the nature or severity of the injury.

Federer, by contrast, is just fine. He was the Dubai champion on March 2, and runner-up to Dominic Thiem at Indian Wells two weeks ago.



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, reacts after defeating John Isner in the singles final of the Miami Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

"This is a good phase, a good stretch for me right now," Federer said. "I really feel super healthy. That's why I have been able to play every day for the last four weeks. That's something that maybe hasn't al-

ways been the case for the last few years. So you appreciate these moments." Federer is 18-2 this year, best on the men's tour, which stamps him as a threat to add to his record total of 20 Grand Slam titles

in 2019.

"Unbelievable for you to keep winning and playing this level of tennis," Miami tournament director James Blake, a former top-five player, told Federer at the trophy presentation. "It

Associated Press

makes me feel like such an underachiever. We're all just in awe."

Isner also paid tribute to Federer during the ceremony. "You were entirely too good today, entirely too good this whole tournament," Isner said. "You are entirely too good your whole career. It's absolutely incredible what you're doing. We're so lucky to have you in this game, and we all want you to keep playing and literally never retire. So keep it up, man." The first 33 men's and women's titles in 2019 were won by 33 different players, including Ashleigh Barty in the Miami women's final Saturday. Federer is the first repeat winner in 20 men's tournaments this year.

"Kind of fitting," Isner said. Federer first played in the Miami tournament as a wild card 20 years ago. He won the title in 2005, 2006 and 2017 before it moved from Key Biscayne to its new home this year in the Dolphins' complex. □

# Kings beat Blackhawks 3-2 on Doughty's power-play goal in OT

By DAN GREENSPAN

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Drew Doughty scored a power-play goal with 11.6 seconds remaining in overtime and the Los Angeles Kings defeated the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 on Saturday night.

Michael Amadio and Austin Wagner each had a goal in regulation, and Jack Campbell made 33 saves for the Kings.

Erik Gustafsson and Alex DeBrincat scored for the Blackhawks, who pulled within six points of Colorado for the second wild card in the Western Conference with four games remaining. Corey Crawford made 26

saves. Doughty buried a slap shot at 4:48 after Jonathan Toews was whistled for holding Anze Kopitar in a frantic overtime that featured quality scoring chances for both teams. Amadio tied it at 2 at 15:05 of the third with a wrist shot from the high slot after the Blackhawks went back in front 2-1 at 3:09 of the period on a slap shot from the blue line by Gustafsson. DeBrincat gave the Blackhawks a 1-0 lead 1:38 into the second period by scoring for the third time in two games.

DeBrincat wanted to chip the puck over to Patrick Kane on the rush, but Alec Martinez's attempt at a



Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Duncan Keith (2) reaches for the puck as Los Angeles Kings forward Carl Grundstrom (38) defends during the first period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

breakup sent the puck right back to DeBrincat at the near post for his 41st goal of

the season.

Wagner tied it at 1 at 16:05, showing off his speed by

racing past Blackhawks defensemen Carl Dahlstrom and Connor Murphy for a breakaway and burying a wrist shot into the top netting.

NOTES: Blackhawks C David Kampf did not return after being struck in the face by a puck while killing a penalty in the first period. ... Blackhawks F Drake Caggiula played for the first time since sustaining a concussion on Feb. 27 that caused him to miss 13 games. ... Kings F Ilya Kovalchuk was a healthy scratch for the sixth straight game. Coach Willie Desjardins expects Kovalchuk will play during the final four games of the season. □



# Kisner, Kuchar make it an All-American final at Match Play

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Kevin Kisner made it back to the Dell Technologies Match Play final Sunday for the second straight year by outlasting British Open champion Francesco Molinari to reach the championship match against Matt Kuchar.

Kuchar made it an All-American final for the second straight year — and the ninth time since it began in 1999 — by beating Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark in 18 holes.

Kisner is the fifth player in the 21 years of Match Play to get to the last round in consecutive years. Bubba Watson beat him last year at Austin Country Club in a match that lasted only 12 holes.

"I can't finish worse than second," Kisner said.

He won his semifinal match when Molinari three-putted from 25 feet above the hole with a helping wind, missing his par attempt from 8 feet. Molinari had been the only player to not lose a match this week, and none of his five previous matches reached the 18th hole. He



**Kevin Kisner watches his drive on the sixth hole during semifinal play against Francesco Molinari at the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship golf tournament, Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Austin, Texas.**

and Kisner played their best golf in the toughest conditions, with a strong wind making the temperatures feel like the upper 30s.

Each won three holes through the par-3 seventh, and Kisner took the first lead on the back nine when Molinari's pitch to the green on the par-5 12th didn't check up and rolled over the back and into the water. Kisner appeared to

seize control with another poor wedge shot from Molinari, this one from the back collar at No. 14 some 10 feet by the hole. But the Italian answered with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 16th and a wedge to 3 feet for birdie on the 17th.

Both found tough spots on the 18th, Molinari in a bunker and Kisner in a slight divot hole. Molinari went long and left, leaving him a slick

putt that he couldn't afford to lag because Kisner had a good look from just inside 15 feet.

"I bogeyed 12, 14 18 from decent spots," Molinari said. "So it's not something really you're allowed to do."

The other semifinal was just as tight.

Bjerregaard, coming off an emotional 1-up win over Tiger Woods on Saturday

afternoon to reach the final day, never led. He was never out of it, either, three times winning holes to tie the match.

Kuchar reached the green in two on the 16th and missed his eagle putt, going 1 up when the 27-year-old Dane missed his birdie putt from about 15 feet. Kuchar birdied the next, only for Bjerregaard to match him with a 10-foot birdie to send it to the 18th.

Needing a birdie to have any chance, Bjerregaard went some 35 feet long and missed the putt. Kuchar lagged his 15-foot birdie putt to the hole and the match was conceded.

Kuchar headed to the final for the second time, having won this World Golf Championship in 2013 over Hunter Mahan. Kuchar already is the only two-time winner on the PGA Tour this season.

Kisner is the first player since group play began in 2015 to lose in the opening round and reach the final. Of the previous four players who made it to the championship match in consecutive years, only Paul Casey (2009-10) lost both times. □

Associated Press

## Liverpool back on top after Tottenham self-destructs at end

Associated Press

**LIVERPOOL, England (AP)**

— Liverpool returned to the top of the Premier League on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Tottenham gifted by Toby Alderweireld's 90th-minute own-goal for the third-placed London club.

Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris couldn't hold a header from Liverpool winger Mohamed Salah, instead sending the ball onto Alderweireld, who then diverted it back into his own net.

Liverpool moved two points clear of Manchester City, having played a game more.

"I was not happy that we conceded a goal of course, but we needed it a little bit because first half we had fantastic chances, scored a wonderful goal ... (and) second half we looked heavy-legged," Liv-



**Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, left, and Liverpool's Roberto Firmino celebrate after Tottenham's Toby Alderweireld scores an own goal past his goalkeeper during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield stadium in Liverpool, England, Sunday, March 31, 2019.**

Associated Press

erpool manager Juergen Klopp said.

"After the goal we started playing again a little bit more. We compete with the best team in the world I would say, Man City, and we play against one of the best teams in the world,

Tottenham. A tough task I would say."

Liverpool secured a 16th-minute lead when Andrew Robertson's cross from the left was perfect for Roberto Firmino, who took up a position between the Tottenham center backs and

noddled in from 10 yards (meters).

It was a second half short of clear-cut chances but Tottenham began to apply more pressure on the Liverpool defense and made its breakthrough after 70 minutes.

Harry Kane hit a perfect ball forward from a quick free-kick to find Kieran Trippier, the right back steered the ball into Christian Eriksen, whose square ball was sent in from close range by Lucas Moura.

Tottenham, potential title contenders until February, should have put a huge dent in Liverpool's hopes of ending a 29-year wait for the title but has not won a league match now since mid-February.

Tottenham is only ahead of fourth-place Manchester United on goal difference and a point ahead of

London rivals Arsenal and Chelsea. "I am happy because the emotion and the feeling we got today is going to help us," Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said. "Now we start a mini-league, (with) seven games ahead."

"We are in the top four, we need to keep our position, it's in our hands and with all the circumstances that happen this season they (the players) are more than heroes and we need to keep the trust and the confidence."

Pochettino, in the stands serving a touchline ban, had brought in Alderweireld as a third central defender but it did not give the advantage Spurs wanted down the flanks through wing-backs Trippier and Danny Rose, who more often than not just made the backline a flat five. □



## Ferrari gifts Hamilton another win after Bahrain GP blunder

By JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

SAKHIR, Bahrain (AP) —

Lewis Hamilton's surprise win for Mercedes at the Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday was the latest present from rival Ferrari, served on a silver plate and wrapped with a red ribbon.

Hamilton won at a canter despite the Silver Arrows lagging behind the red-and-black Ferraris for most of the race.

First, Sebastian Vettel imploded under pressure from Hamilton, spiraling out of contention some 20 laps from the end as the pair of five-time Formula One champions fought for what seemed like second place. Then it got even worse for Ferrari as race leader Charles Leclerc's engine started losing power.

"(It was) just a loss of power, completely," Leclerc said. "There were no signs before."

It was the F1 equivalent of an open-goal in soccer for Hamilton, who took full advantage before getting a post-race hug from former Manchester United and England star David Beckham, who waved the



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain in the pits after winning the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Associated Press

checked flag on Hamilton's 74th career win. Only seven-time F1 champion Michael Schumacher has more with 91.

Leclerc finished third behind Valtteri Bottas as Mercedes somehow clinched a second straight 1-2 from two races, having been slower than Ferrari in pre-season testing and in Bahrain. Ferrari looked in ominous form after dominating every practice session and every section of qualifying on the 5.4-kilometer (3.3-mile) desert circuit.

"We were lucky. Ferrari outperformed us from the get-

go," Hamilton said. "It definitely feels weird. But what can you do? You can't deny yourself (victory)."

Then, to rub further salt into Vettel's wounds, Hamilton heaped praise on Leclerc — who drove brilliantly to secure pole position on Saturday and was only denied victory by problems with his car.

"Charles was incredible this weekend. He was so much faster than his teammate," Hamilton said. "He has a bright future ahead of him." A despondent Leclerc thought he was going to become the third-young-

est winner of an F1 race — after Max Verstappen and Vettel — having already become the second youngest to qualify on pole after Vettel.

"You have a dream since childhood, your first win in Formula One," the 21-year-old driver from Monaco said.

Red Bull's Verstappen placed fourth with Vettel crossing in fifth.

Leclerc only finished third because the safety car came out near the end after the Renaults of Daniel Ricciardo and Nico Hulkenberg went off track.

Under safety car rules drivers must hold position. Verstappen could not attack and missed out on a second straight podium, after third place at the season-opening Australian GP two weeks ago behind Hamilton and Bottas.

Leclerc picked up a bonus point for posting the fastest lap. But Ferrari will know third and fifth spots were simply not good enough, after fourth and fifth in Australia.

"We'll check everything we can," Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto said.

Ferrari last won the drivers' title in 2007 with Kimi Raikkonen, and its constructors' title the following year remains its last. In the past two seasons, Ferrari challenged strongly before badly fading in the second part of the season after a series of mishaps, strategy errors and mistakes by Vettel.

Ferrari replaced struggling team principal Maurizio Arrivabene with Binotto, formerly Ferrari chief technical officer. But he's in much the same position: with a fast car and a driver — Vettel — appearing prone to problems and errors. Heading into the Chinese GP in two weeks' time, Ferrari has to find a way to stop throwing away points and Vettel needs to regain control.

Vettel did well to overtake Leclerc at the start of Sunday's race, but Leclerc reclaimed his lead soon after with an audacious move on the German driver's outside.

It looked even more like being Ferrari's day when Hamilton went too wide on Lap 20 and drifted further behind Leclerc. Vettel overtook him on Lap 23 to put Ferrari 1-2. □

## Alvarez upset by Nasyukhin in One Championship debut

By JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) —

Russian Timofey Nasyukhin upset American Eddie Alvarez with a first-round technical knockout in the mixed martial arts One Championship on Sunday at Ryogoku Kokugikan, Tokyo's premier sumo venue.

Nasyukhin floored Alvarez with a right hand to the side of the head with 55 seconds left in the opening round of the lightweight bout, which was Alvarez's debut with One Championship.

Nasyukhin kicked high early and put a two-punch combination together when Alvarez attempted to pressure him backward. He sent the former UFC 155-pound title holder down with a right hand two minutes in. With a minute left, Nasyukhin again stunned Alvarez who went down on a knee



Mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters Russia's Timofey Nasyukhin, left and Eddie Alvarez of the United States fight during their lightweight world grand prix quarterfinal of One Championship bout in Tokyo, Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Associated Press

and his opponent was relentless until the referee stepped in.

"This has been the case most of my career, people have underestimated me," the 28-year-old Nasyukhin said. "I knew that he was a better opponent than me

and he's an MMA legend but I used that as motivation."

The 35-year-old Alvarez, who hadn't fought since July 2018, was unavailable for comment after the bout as he was taken to a nearby hospital.

American Demetrious Johnson, also making his One Championship debut, won his flyweight bout when he got Japan's Yuya Wakamatsu in a choke hold at 2 minutes, 40-seconds of the second round. "Yuya is a tough opponent," Johnson said. "Being my first fight in Japan, I knew I was going to face some adversity. I wanted to challenge him and when you challenge someone, you leave yourself open to getting hit but it was a great fight."

Johnson and Alvarez are two former UFC champions who moved to the Singapore-based One Championship this year.

One has staged shows across Asia from Myanmar to China over the past seven years, but waited to take its shot at the martial arts-loving fan base in Ja-

pan, where several major MMA organizations have risen and fallen over the years. One also plans to debut in Vietnam and South Korea later in 2019.

With 30 seconds left, La N Sang landed a massive right hand. Hasegawa immediately fell to the canvas and La N Sang moved in to get the finish.

Jing Nan Xiong defeated Angela Lee to keep her strawweight title.

Xiong survived a series of submission attempts in the fourth round then countered in the final frame with body kicks and got the TKO stoppage at the 1:37 mark of the fifth round.

Challenger Shinya Aoki gave the sellout crowd of 11,000 a thrill when he won his lightweight bout over Eduard Folayang with a choke hold in the first round. □



# Facebook extends ban on hate speech to 'white nationalists'

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Facebook is extending its ban on hate speech to prohibit the promotion and support of white nationalism and white separatism. The company previously allowed such material even though it has long banned white supremacists. The social network said Wednesday that it didn't apply the ban previously to expressions of white nationalism because it linked such expressions with broader concepts of nationalism and separatism — such as American pride or Basque separatism (which are still allowed).

But civil rights groups and academics called this view "misguided" and have long pressured the company to change its stance. Facebook said it concluded after months of "conversations" with them that white nationalism and separatism cannot be meaningfully separated from white supremacy and organized hate groups.

Critics have "raised these issues to the highest levels at Facebook (and held) a



In this March 13, 2019, file photo Facebook, Messenger and Instagram apps are displayed on an iPhone in New York.

number of working meetings with their staff as we've tried to get them to the right place," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a Washington, D.C.-based legal advocacy group.

"This is long overdue as the country continues to deal

with the grip of hate and the increase in violent white supremacy," she said. "We need the tech sector to do its part to combat these efforts." Though Facebook Inc. said it has been working on the change for three months, it comes less than two weeks after Facebook received widespread criticism after the suspect in

shootings at two New Zealand mosques that killed 50 people was able to broadcast the massacre on live video on Facebook. Also on Wednesday, a man convicted on state murder charges in a deadly car attack at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, pleaded guilty to federal hate crime charg-

**Associated Press**

es. The bloodshed in 2017 prompted tech companies to take a firmer stand against accounts used to promote hate and violence. But apparently not enough. Now, Facebook is trying to do more. As part of Wednesday's change, people who search for terms associated with white supremacy on Facebook will be directed to a group called Life After Hate, which was founded by former extremists who want to help people leave the violent far-right.

Clarke called the idea that white supremacism is different than white nationalism or white separatism a misguided "distinction without a difference." She said the New Zealand attack was a "powerful reminder about why we need the tech sector to do more to stamp out the conduct and activity of violent white supremacists." Rashad Robinson, the president of Color of Change, says the racial justice group warned Facebook to the growing dangers of white nationalists on its platform years ago and that he was glad to see Wednesday's announcement. □

# Microsoft: Seizure of sites Iranian hackers used for attacks

By **MATT O'BRIEN**  
AP Technology Writer

Microsoft said it seized 99 websites used by Iranian hackers to steal sensitive information and launch other cyberattacks.

The company said the group, which it has been tracking since 2013, has tried to snoop on activists, journalists, political dissidents, defense industry workers and others in the Middle East, including some who were "protesting oppressive regimes" in the region. Hackers did so by tricking people in those organizations to click on malicious links disguised to resemble well-known brands, including Microsoft and its LinkedIn, Outlook and Windows products, Microsoft said in court filings.

Wednesday's announcement tied the hackers to the country of Iran but not



This July 3, 2014 file photo shows Microsoft Corp. signage outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Wash.

**Associated Press**

specifically to its government. A spokesman for Iran's mission to the United Nations didn't respond to an email and phone call seeking comment Wednesday. Iran has denied involvement in other hacking efforts identified by Microsoft. Microsoft calls the hacking group Phosphorus,

while others call it APT35 or Charming Kitten.

Allison Wikoff, a security researcher at Atlanta-based Secureworks, said it is one of the "more active Iranian threat groups" she has observed. She said Microsoft's takedown was a big win using a practice known as "sinkholing," which involves

taking over adversary domains and analyzing their traffic to protect against future attacks.

Microsoft sued the hacking group in U.S. District Court in Washington this month and described a hacking operation that "demonstrates skill, patience and access to resources."

The hackers' malicious software, according to the lawsuit, "effectively morphs the trusted, Microsoft-trademarked Windows system into a tool of deception and theft."

Microsoft said the group typically tries to infiltrate a target's personal accounts, not their work accounts, by luring them into clicking on a link to a compromised website or opening a malicious attachment.

Hackers, the company said, used fake domain names that resembled

Microsoft and other well-known brands. They also created fake social media profiles to target people. Microsoft said hackers were damaging the company by breaking into its customers' online accounts and computer networks.

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson sided with the company in a March 15 ruling, arguing that there was good cause to believe the hacking activity was harming the company, its customers and the public. The documents were unsealed Wednesday.

Microsoft has taken hacking groups to court before. The Redmond, Washington, company used a similar strategy in 2016 to seize fake domains created by Russia-backed hackers who were later found to have been meddling in the U.S. presidential election. □



# Finding your lost retirement money

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
Associated Press

No one wants to lose money, particularly for retirement. But it happens — people lose track of, or don't know they have, retirement accounts.

It's surprisingly easy to do. People switch jobs, move, change names and the company or plan provider loses track of them. Or an employee can't keep track after a company is sold or a plan is terminated. Some people don't even know they were eligible for a pension, didn't realize they were vested or were unaware they were automatically enrolled in a 401(k).

While an employer should inform employees of their options when leaving, employees sometimes forget to complete the paperwork, said Thomas Nee, co-founder of Compass Point Retirement Planning. There is also little requirement or incentive for companies or plan providers to find beneficiaries.

There's no exact measure of how many unclaimed benefits are out there. But a report released last year by the Government Accountability Office states that between 2004 and 2013 more than 25 million people left at least one retirement



In this Feb. 12, 2019, file photo pedestrians pass beneath City Hall in Philadelphia.

plan behind when they left a job.

Here are some tips on tracking down lost benefits:

## CHECK YOUR PAPERWORK

If you have paperwork on an old pension, 401(k) or other retirement plan, this is a good place to start. Contact the company that manages the plan and go from there.

In some cases, you may want to grab old taxes, W-2s or other employment-related documents while you're digging through the paperwork. This docu-

mentation can help if the process proves difficult. In some cases, the hunt to find and claim benefits can become very complex and take years, particularly if a company has been sold more than once over the years, said Karen Ferguson, director of the Pension Rights Center.

## CONTACT YOUR OLD EMPLOYER

The next step should be contacting your old employer to request information about what retirement benefits you're due. If you

cannot find them, search the Department of Labor's website of Form 5500 filings to find out if they are still in business. This form should have contact information for the plan.

## GET HELP

There are a bevy of databases and organizations that can help you find benefits and provide direction: -The Department of Labor's Employee Benefit Security Administration (EBSA) provides help over the phone and online, including a searchable database for

abandoned plans: [www.askebsa.dol.gov](http://www.askebsa.dol.gov)

-The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. is a federal agency in charge of insuring private-sector pension benefits. If the plan is in trouble, the PBGC steps in. The PBGC said there are more than 80,000 people who earned a pension who haven't yet claimed it. Those unclaimed benefits total over \$400 million dollars, with individual benefits ranging from twelve cents to almost \$1 million. The agency provides information over the phone and online, including a searchable database: [www.pbpgc.gov](http://www.pbpgc.gov)

-State Unclaimed Property: In some cases, the money is handed over to a state's unclaimed property division. Each state maintains its own database but the website [missingmoney.com](http://missingmoney.com), created by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, can also provide information about each state's programs.

-Social Security Administration: The SSA will provide a notice alerting you to potential benefits when you are ready to claim Social Security, but the notice does not guarantee those funds are still there. □

# Thinking ahead: How to prepare next year's tax filing now

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
Associated Press

If you weren't happy with your tax bill this year, or you're worried about next year's, this is the time to take action.

## CHECK YOUR WITHHOLDINGS

If you do only one thing, review the withholdings on your paycheck.

The tax overhaul changed how much employers withhold from paychecks. If you withhold too much, you are due a refund. If you withhold too little, you owe. While the government urged people to review their withholdings to make sure they were up to date, few did. As a result, some people got more money in their checks during the



This Feb. 13, 2019, file photo shows multiple forms printed from the Internal Revenue Service web page that are used for 2018 U.S. federal tax returns in Zelienople, Pa.

year but were surprised at tax time.

The IRS urges all taxpayers to do a "Paycheck Checkup" now so that if a withholding adjustment is needed, there is time for it to happen more evenly

this year. You can change your withholdings at any time. Waiting means fewer pay periods to withhold the necessary federal tax. The IRS has a withholding calculator on its site, which will help people determine

their correct withholding amount.

## SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

If you set more aside for your future retirement, it can actually help you on your taxes now. That's because money put in a 401(k) account is pretax, thereby lowering your income level. There are also tax breaks for contributing to IRAs and other retirement accounts.

So check to make sure you are contributing as much as possible to your retirement plan, said Dave Du Val, chief consumer advocacy officer at TaxAudit. DON'T OVERLOOK DEDUCTIONS

Yes, the tax overhaul did away with or limited a number of popular deductions

but there are still some out there for the taking. □



Have you ever wish you travel to Aruba with just a carry-on ?

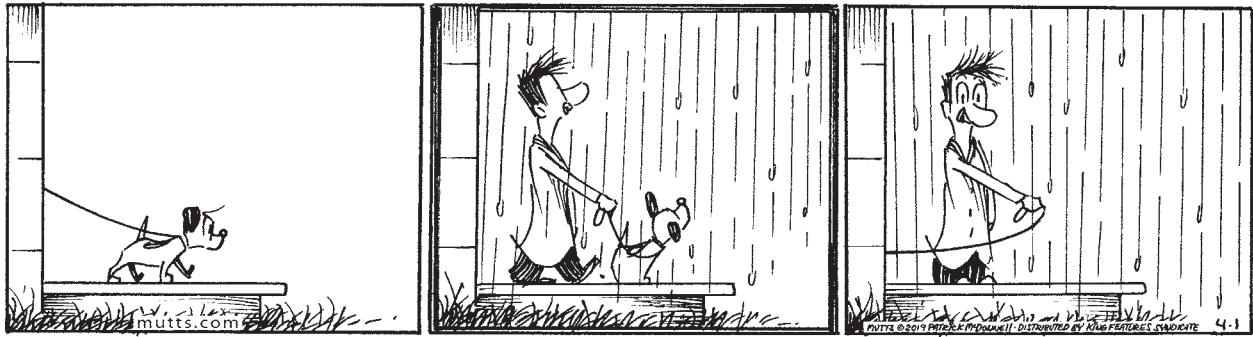
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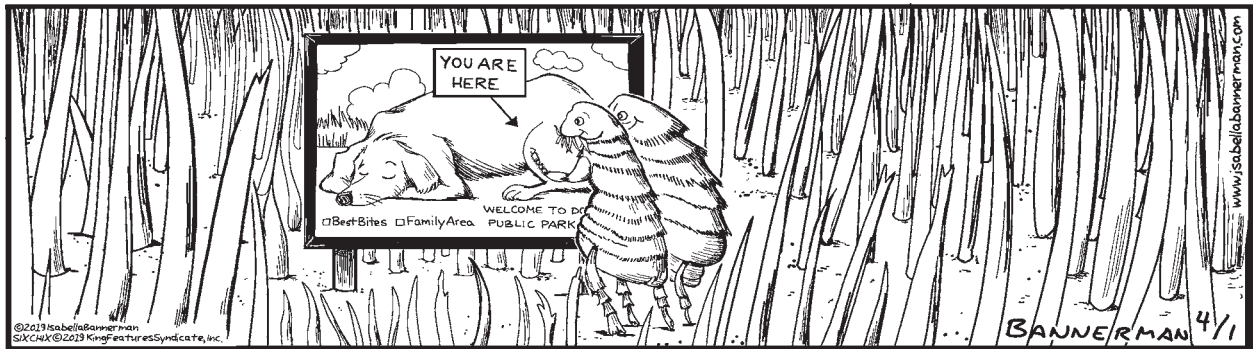
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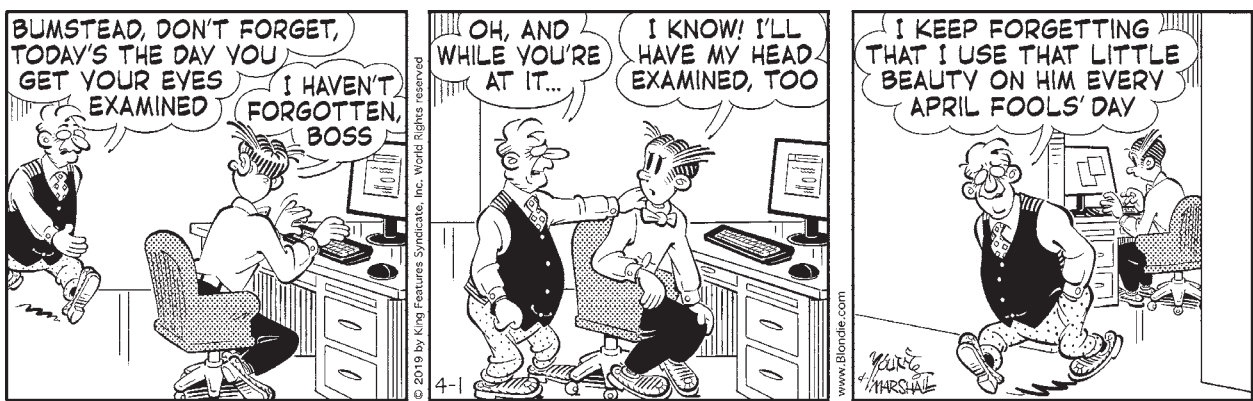
Mutts



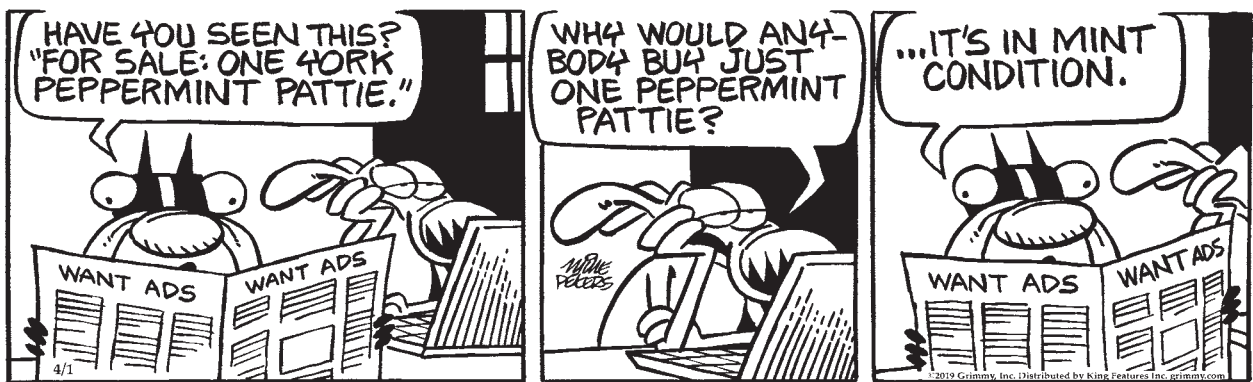
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9					1			3
	2	7		3			4	
			5		2		1	
5		9		7		6		
	6		2		5		9	
		4		6		5		1
	9		4		6			
	5			9		3	2	
8			1					6

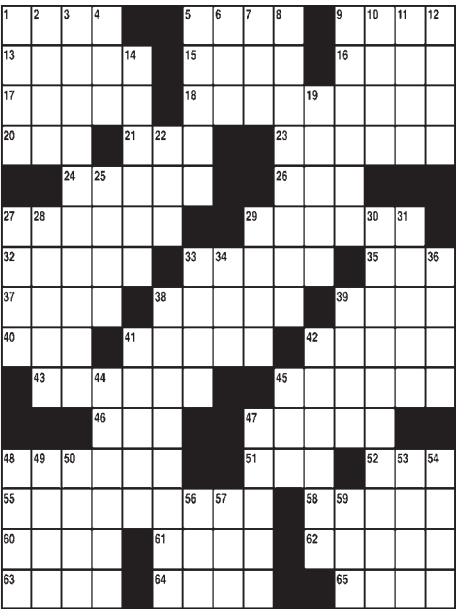
Difficulty Level ★ 4/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

4	7	5	8	3	6	1	2	9
8	1	6	9	2	4	5	7	3
3	2	9	7	1	5	4	8	6
2	6	8	3	4	7	9	5	1
9	3	7	5	6	1	2	4	8
5	4	1	2	8	9	6	3	7
1	8	4	6	5	3	7	9	2
7	5	2	1	9	8	3	6	4
6	9	3	4	7	2	8	1	5

- ACROSS
- 1 Sink stopper
  - 5 Doe's mate
  - 9 Small store
  - 13 Recluse
  - 15 Robust
  - 16 Barn topper
  - 17 Bring together
  - 18 Disrespectful talk
  - 20 "The Wizard of Oz" production co.
  - 21 Musical notes
  - 23 Not as harsh
  - 24 Luxurious
  - 26 Devour
  - 27 Pastor's territory
  - 29 "Down by the Old Mill"
  - 32 "Lucy" of old TV
  - 33 Night twinklers
  - 35 Word of disgust
  - 37 Sheltered inlet
  - 38 Spacious
  - 39 Morse's invention
  - 40 That girl
  - 41 Fissures; splits
  - 42 Numerals; X, L, D, etc.
  - 43 Floating with no anchor
  - 45 Derelict in duty
  - 46 Tiny fellow
  - 47 Pulled four-wheeled vehicle
  - 48 Stimulating drink
  - 51 "What Kind of Fool?"
  - 52 Author Doyle's initials
  - 55 Largest terriers
  - 58 Gallant; dignified
  - 60 Big clubs
  - 61 Notable deed; exploit
  - 62 Woody
  - 63 Bodies of water
  - 64 Forest destroyer
  - 65 Skillful



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/1/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

ROW	TASTE	SCOT
EXIT	ALOHA	HOPE
PERU	PILES	ONES
NEGLIGENT	WENT	
BORN	WEE	
CAROLS	SMOLDERS	
IDEAL	SPOOF	LEE
GOAT	SHARD	PAPA
ABC	ACORN	FATAL
REHASHES	MOSEYS	
RHO	BOOS	
MAGI	OFFENDING	
ILLS	LEAST	NORM
CLUE	EARTH	GNAT
EYES	DRESS	EDS

- 38 Undesirable neighbors
- 39 Singer Perry
- 41 Irritated
- 42 Capital of Saskatchewan
- 44 Break in the school day
- 45 Male animal
- 47 Spend foolishly
- 48 Flock cries
- 49 Asian staple
- 50 Region
- 53 Musical symbol
- 54 Car blemish
- 56 Ring of flowers
- 57 Corn cob
- 59 Ancient



## Rangers free 6 trapped baby elephants in Thailand

**Associated Press**

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Six baby elephants, trapped in a mud hole and separated from their parents, have been rescued by a team of park rangers in north-eastern Thailand.

The rangers came across the elephant calves on Wednesday afternoon as they were struggling to climb the pit's slippery banks, according to officials of Thap Lan National Park.

Some of the rangers went for help, while others spent the night with the baby elephants.

On Thursday, as the elephants wallowed together at one side of the pit, rangers at the other side spent four hours using hoes and pickaxes to dig out enough mud to form a ramp.

Video of the great elephant escape released by the Department of National Parks shows the animals climbing out of the muck and quickly heading into the forest, a few dozen meters (yards) away.

The rangers cheer the elephants on, with comments like "Go, go on, child!"

One elephant struggles, slips and falls, but finally all make it out of the muck. □

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### Aruba Divi Phoenix

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building 9 7th floor  
33 weeks remain \$25 K each  
1 BR WK 11  
building 7 3rd floor  
34 weeks remain \$15 K

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Thursday check in  
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2nd floor garden view  
1 BR \$8000, studio \$7000

### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK #11  
3rd floor B 3 \$9000  
26 weeks remain  
Studio wk # 11  
ground floor B 4 \$7500  
30 weeks remain

### Divi Village

Building C elevator  
2 BR wk 13 \$14 K  
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated  
weeks remain  
1 BR WK # 14 \$7.5 K  
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

### La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in  
1 BR wk 11 & 12 \$18 K both  
4th floor pool/ocean view  
Friday check in  
1 BR WK # 12  
4 th floor \$ 9000  
Garden/ocean view

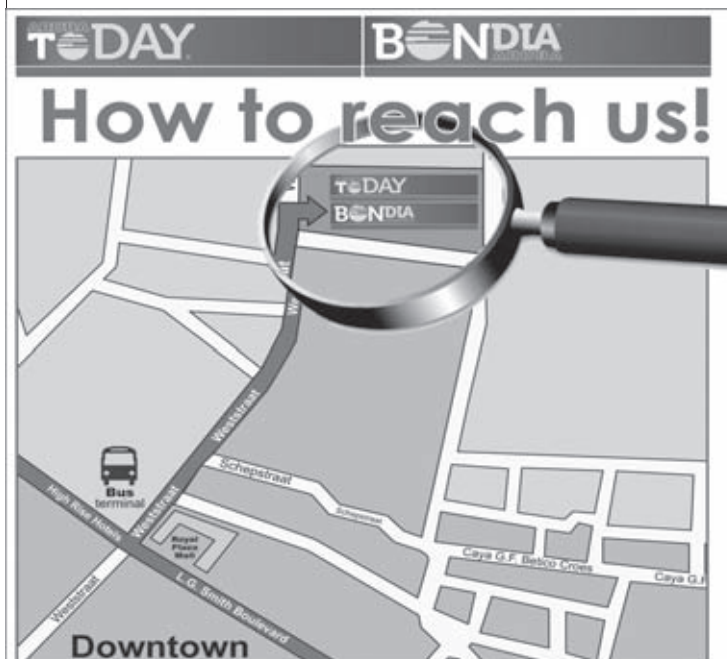
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524 8833

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### Oranjestad

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### San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours

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San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Ambulancia	911
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Carnival Sunshine

### April 2

Navigator of the Seas

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Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
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Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

## General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



# Snapshot of extinction: Fossils show day of killer asteroid

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

New research released Friday captures a fossilized snapshot of the day nearly 66 million years ago when an asteroid smacked Earth, fire rained from the sky and the ground shook far worse than any modern earthquake. It was the day that nearly all life on Earth went extinct, including the dinosaurs. The researchers say they found evidence in North Dakota of the asteroid hit in Mexico, including fish with hot glass in their gills from flaming debris that showered back down on Earth. They also reported the discovery of charred trees, evidence of an inland tsunami and melted amber. Separately, University of Amsterdam's Jan Smit disclosed that he and his colleagues even found dinosaur footprints from just before their demise.

Smit said the footprints — one from a plant-eating hadrosaur and the other of a meat eater, maybe a small Tyrannosaurus Rex — is "definite proof that the dinosaurs were alive and kicking at the time of impact ... They were running around, chasing each other" when they were swamped.

"This is the death blow preserved at one particular site. This is just spectacular,"



This Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017 file photo shows a model of a Tyrannosaurus rex on display in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, N.M.

said Purdue University geophysicist and impact expert Jay Melosh, who wasn't part of the research but edited the paper released Friday by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Melosh called it the field's "discovery of the century." But other experts said that while some of the work is fascinating, they have some serious concerns about the research, including the lack of access to this specific Hell Creek Formation fossil site for outside scientists. Hell Creek — which

spans Montana, both Dakotas and Wyoming — is a fossil treasure trove that includes numerous types of dinosaurs, mammals, reptiles and fish trapped in clay and stone from 65 to 70 million years ago.

Kirk Johnson, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History who also has studied the Hell Creek area for 38 years, said that the work on the fish, the glass and trees "demonstrates some of the details of what happened on THE DAY. That's all quite interesting and very valid

stuff." But Johnson said that because there is restricted access to the site, other scientists can't confirm the research. Smit said the restrictions were to protect the site from poachers.

Johnson also raised concerns about claims made by the main author, Robert DePalma, a University of Kansas doctoral student, that appeared in a New Yorker magazine article published Friday but not in the scientific paper. DePalma did not return an email or phone message seeking comment. For decades,

Associated Press

the massive asteroid crash that caused the Chicxulub crater in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula has been considered the likely cause of the mass extinction often called the "KT boundary" for the division between two geologic time periods. But some scientists have insisted that massive volcanic activity played a role. Johnson and Melosh said this helps prove the asteroid crash case.

There were only a few dinosaur fossils from that time, but the footsteps are most convincing, Smit said.

There was more than dinosaurs, he said. The site includes ant nests, wasp nests, fragile preserved leaves and fish that were caught in the act of dying. He said that soon after fish die they get swollen bellies and these fossils didn't show swelling.

The researchers said the inland tsunami points to a massive earthquake generated by the asteroid crash, somewhere between a magnitude 10 and 11. That's more than 350 times stronger than the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Purdue's Melosh said as he read the study, he kept saying "wow, wow, what a discovery."

The details coming out of this are "mind-blowing," he said. □



In this Sept. 19, 2011, file photo, the vertical-lift Ampera Bridge spanning over the Musi River is shrouded by haze in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia.

Associated Press

## Worsening air pollution reducing lifespans in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's air quality has deteriorated from among the cleanest in the world to one of the most polluted over the past two decades, shaving five years from life expectancy in some regions, researchers say.

The study by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago says an increase in coal-fired power stations, burning of land for plantation agriculture and rising car ownership are responsible for the worsening pollution in the world's fourth-most populous country.

The greatest spike happened in the last few years

with air pollution more than doubling between 2013 and 2016, it said. The burden on public health has become one of the highest in the world, behind only India, China, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"High air pollution is now undermining Indonesians' health," said researchers Michael Greenstone and Qing Fan. "In 1998, air pollution barely impacted the life expectancy of Indonesians. In fact, even in 2013, it shaved only a few months off of average life expectancy."

According to the researchers, sustained high concentrations of particulate mat-

ter in the air people breathe will cut 2.3 years from lifespans in the capital, Jakarta. On the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, both of which suffer land fires every year, the expected reduction in lifespans is four years on average. It rises to 4.8 years for the southern Sumatran city of Palembang and 5.6 years for its neighboring Ogan Komering Ilir district. Indonesia's annual dry season fires were particularly disastrous in 2015, burning 2.6 million hectares (10,000 square miles) of land and spreading health-damaging haze across Indonesia, Singapore, southern Thailand and Malaysia. □

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# Janet Jackson, Nicks, 5 Brit bands lead rock hall inductees

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stevie Nicks became the first woman inducted twice into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Friday — after 22 men — and in her acceptance speech, she urged her fellow female rockers to join her as she led a class of inductees that included Janet Jackson and a quintet of British bands.

Two of Radiohead's five members were on hand for their induction, and not everyone from Roxy Music was on hand. Def Leppard, the Cure and the Zombies were also ushered in.

Nicks had already been inducted as a member of Fleetwood Mac, but was honored this time for her solo legacy.

She told the audience at Brooklyn's Barclays Center that when she started her solo career, she wondered how her fellow and members would react. It obviously worked, and she said she hoped to be an influence.

"What I am doing is opening up the door for other women," she said.

During her four-song set, she brought onstage a cape she bought in 1983 to prove to her "very frugal" late mother that it was still in good shape, and worth its \$3,000 price tag. Don Henley joined her to sing "Leather and Lace," while Harry Styles filled in for the late Tom Petty on "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around."

Styles inducted her, touching on Nicks' sense of style and friendship. He said "Dreams" was the first song where he learned all the words, even though he didn't know what it meant. "I thought it was a song about the weather," he said.

David Byrne inducted Radiohead, noting he was flattered the band named itself after one of his songs. He said their album "Kid A" was the one that really hooked him, and he was impressed Radiohead could be experimental in both their music and how they conduct their busi-



Inductee Stevie Nicks performs at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Barclays Center on Friday, March 29, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

ness. "They're creative and smart in both areas, which was kind of a rare combination for artists, not just now but anytime," he said.

Radiohead drummer Philip Selway and guitarist Ed O'Brien were only band members on hand to accept, so the band didn't perform; there was a question of whether any of them would show up given the group's past ambivalence about the hall. But both spoke highly of the honor.

"This is such a beautifully surreal evening for us," said O'Brien. "It's a big (expletive) deal and it feels like it. ... I wish the others could be here because they would be feeling it."

The also gave props to their bandmates and the bond that has kept them together for three decades, even as Selway admitted "it can be an awkward and challenging band to be in sometimes."

Simon LeBon and John Taylor of Duran Duran inducted them, with Taylor saying that hearing Roxy Music in concert at age 14 showed him what he wanted to do with his life.

"Without Roxy Music, there really would be no Duran Duran," he said.

The soft-spoken Ferry thanked everyone from a succession of bass players

to album cover designers. "We'd like to thank everyone for this unexpected honor," he said.

Jackson will join her brother Michael and the rest of the Jackson 5 as members of the rock hall. Janelle Monáe is lined to induct Jackson, whose hits include "What Have You Done For Me Lately," "All For You" and "That's the Way Love Goes."

There's some potential for awkward vibes, since the event is being filmed for later airing on HBO — the same network that angered the Jackson family this winter for showing the documentary "Leaving Neverland," about two men who alleged Michael Jackson abused them when they were boys. □

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# In acclaimed 'Diane,' a film critic goes behind the camera

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As an esteemed film critic and director of the New York Film Festival, Kent Jones' perch is the film world is a rarified one. But he has long harbored a dream beyond his day job. He doesn't just want to write about and curate movies. He wants to make them. "It's where I've always been aimed," Jones said

with the certainty of a compass while sitting in a Park Slope cafe on a recent morning in Brooklyn. Such aspirations, of course, do not always make sound life goals. Proximity to moviemaking can cloud even the most level-headed of thinkers. The New Yorker critic Pauline Kael infamously flamed out in Hollywood after Warren Beatty lured her to Los Angeles to work on James Toback's



This undated image released by Cinetic Media shows filmmaker Kent Jones, right, with actress Mary Kay Place, left, and associate producer Gabi Madsen on the set of "Diane."

Associated Press

"Love & Money." Jones has carved out a career, and a sensibility, far different than Kael's. But if anyone was skeptical when Jones, 58, went off to make his first fiction film, he understands. "More than one person has been like, 'I was very nervous about watching your movie and then I was relieved that I liked it as much as I did,'" said Jones. "That's been a common thread. I think people were kind of like, 'He's going to make a movie?' But from the inside, it was always about moving in that direction. I just took" — and here Jones roars with laughter — "a different route."

The result is "Diane," a modest and raw character study starring Mary Kay Place as a selfless widower in wintery Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where she spends guilt-ridden days always on the move: visiting her addicted and overbearing son (Jake Lacy), a soup kitchen, her diminishing community of friends and family.

Shot on a meager budget over 20 days in upstate New York (Place calls it "a 59-cent movie"), "Diane," which is in limited release Friday, has been hailed for its clear-eyed intimacy, for the bracingly honest performance of its 71-year-old veteran actress and for its

singular rhythm in which life passes, perplexedly, in fits and starts, through pain and grace. It won three awards, including best narrative film, at last year's Tribeca Film Festival, the downtown New York festival alternative to the one overseen by Jones at Lincoln Center.

Jones wrote it specifically for Place, the "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" star, inspired by her performance in Francis Ford Coppola's 1997 drama "The Rainmaker." They first met while serving as jurors at the Berkshire Film Festival. Jones grew up in nearby Pittsfield, the small, blue-collar city in western Massachusetts. Place was flattered but skeptical.

"I had no hope that it would ever get financed. I said to him, 'You will not get a penny from me. I am not a bank.' But he never seemed daunted or even seemed to think much about it," said Place, speaking by phone from Los Angeles. "I said I believe I'll jump on that faith train myself. I still find it a miracle."

When the script finally arrived years later, Place recognized, she says, "the part of a lifetime."

"It was one of the great gifts of my life," said Place. "I read that thing straight through in a zip. It seemed

to flow like honey dripping out of a bottle."

Jones was once Martin Scorsese's video archivist, and the two remain close. (Scorsese is an executive producer on "Diane.") As a critic, he's shied away from regular week-to-week reviewing to craft a more varied relationship to cinema. He's made documentaries on film history about filmmakers with unique interactions with movies, including the B-movie producer Val Lewton and the critic-turned-filmmaker Francois Truffaut's storied interviews with Alfred Hitchcock. Jones has also written some scripts, including 2013's "Jimmy P.," with French director Arnaud Desplechin.

"I kind of created my own idea of criticism," said Jones. "The deeper I got, the more my thinking about movies became oriented on the divergence between the way they're thought about in writing and what they actually are — what the filmmaking process is for filmmakers as opposed to what the filmmaking process is imaged to be. And it's really different. That became more and more apparent to me."

"It has to live," adds Jones. "That's a very different kind of enterprise from what criticism tends to be aimed at." □

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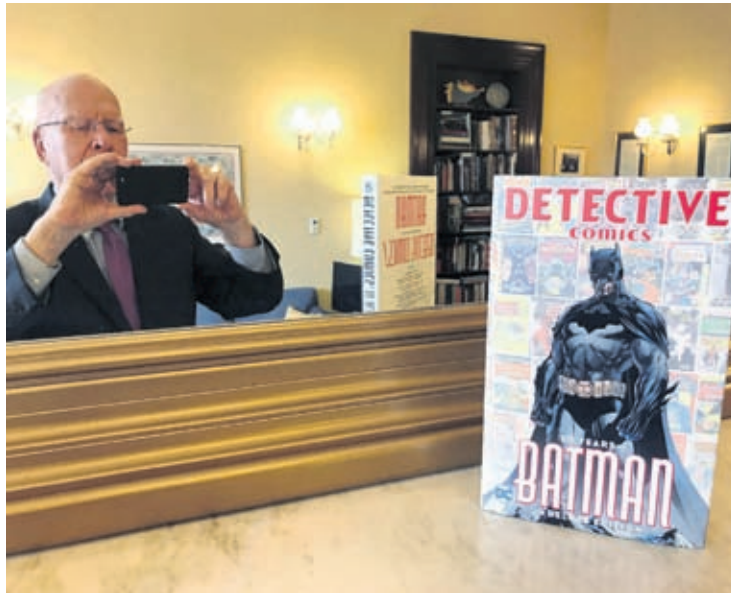
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**Batman fan Sen. Patrick Leahy writes comic book's foreword**

By **WILSON RING**  
**Associated Press**

**MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)** — Vermont U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy has spent much of his adult life crusading for the issues that are important to him and now he's helping to commemorate the 80th birthday of his childhood hero, Batman, the caped crusader, who Leahy credits with helping him win a ban on the export of land mines. For more than two decades, the Vermont Democrat has sprinkled his fascination with the superhero who has no superpowers into his work in the United States Senate, including working with DC Comics to produce a 1996 Batman issue that highlighted the dangers of land mines, which Leahy credits with helping the Senate pass one of a series of anti-land mine measures he has worked on over the years. Saturday is the 80th anniversary of when Batman



**This Thursday, March 28, 2019, photo provided by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., shows Leahy in a mirror and the 80th anniversary edition of a book commemorating the superhero Batman.**

first appeared in the Detective Comics edition released March 30, 1939. Earlier this year DC Comics published an 80th Anniversary coffee-table book and on Wednesday DC released the 1,000th issue Batman comic book issue. Leahy, who turns 79 on Sunday and has had small

roles in five Batman movies, wrote the foreword to the anniversary edition. In the foreword, Leahy, who was born a year after the first Batman comic was released in 1939, said Batman, a millionaire who turned into a fully human superhero after his parents were murdered, turned to

crime fighting and in the process helped people, mostly children, cope with unsettling times in the world of the 1940s and 1950s.

"We saw the Batman as a hero who could protect us from forces that we couldn't control — but that he could," Leahy wrote in the foreword to the book, "80 Years of Batman," that came out March 13. "He had been seared by unspeakable tragedy when his parents were murdered before his eyes. His war against evil focused on protecting others from tragedy."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Leahy said he began reading Batman comic books when he was a child in the early 1940s. One local comic-book seller in his hometown of Montpelier even knew to tap on the window of her store to let the young Leahy know the latest edition had arrived as he walked by. Fast forward half a cen-

tury and Leahy recalls a discussion on copyright issues with officials from DC Comics. Someone made a reference to Batman and Leahy corrected a reference to an early Batman issue, down to the page. The officials from DC checked their archives and Leahy was right.

That led to a foreword by Leahy for an earlier Batman anthology. Leahy asked them for help in getting Congress to pass the land mine ban.

"They loved the idea," Leahy said.

When the vote came up in the Senate, copies of the Batman land mine edition, "Death of Innocence," were placed on the desks of all of Leahy's Senate colleagues. Initially Leahy felt he had the support of at best seven or eight colleagues.

"It was one of those rare things, all 100 senators voted for the ban," Leahy said. □



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